

HERO

30

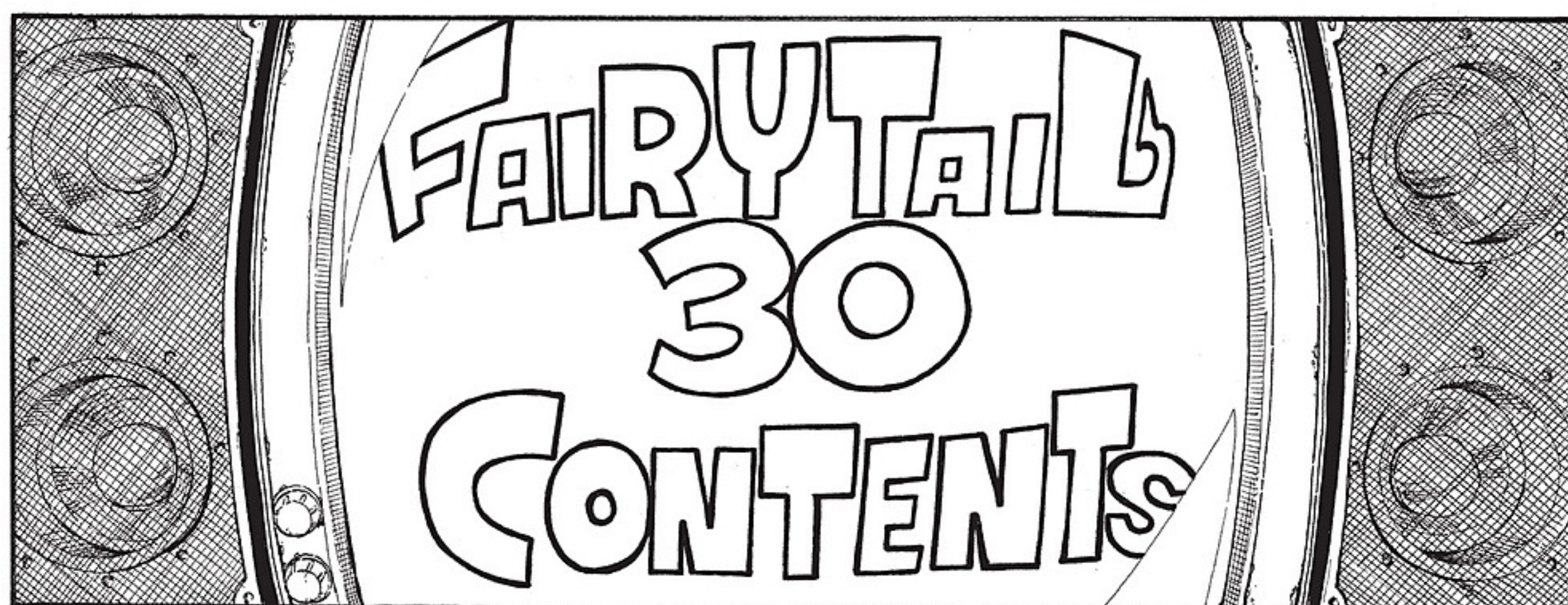
Hiro Mashima
Creator of Rave Master

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル



HIRO MASHIMA



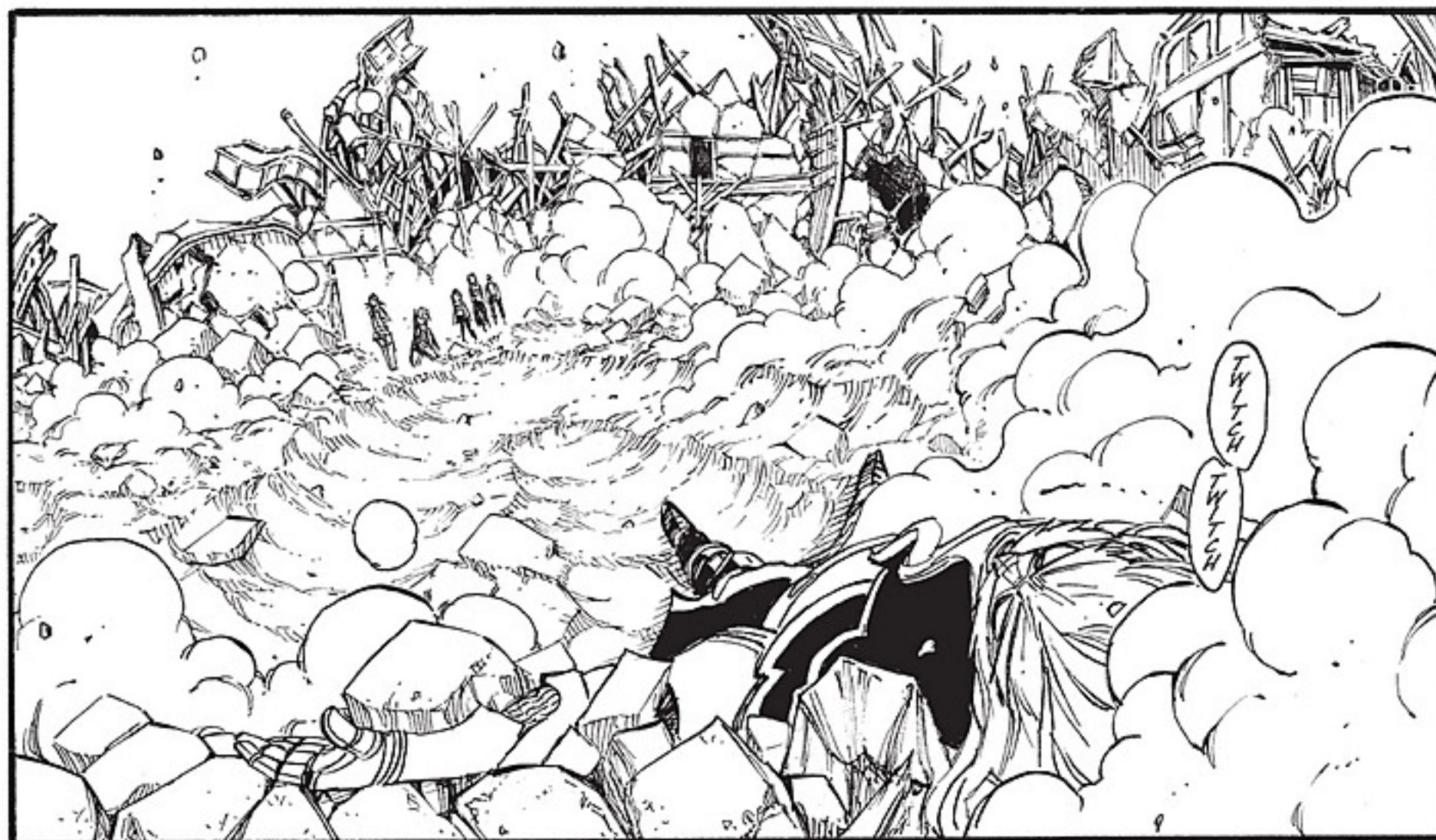
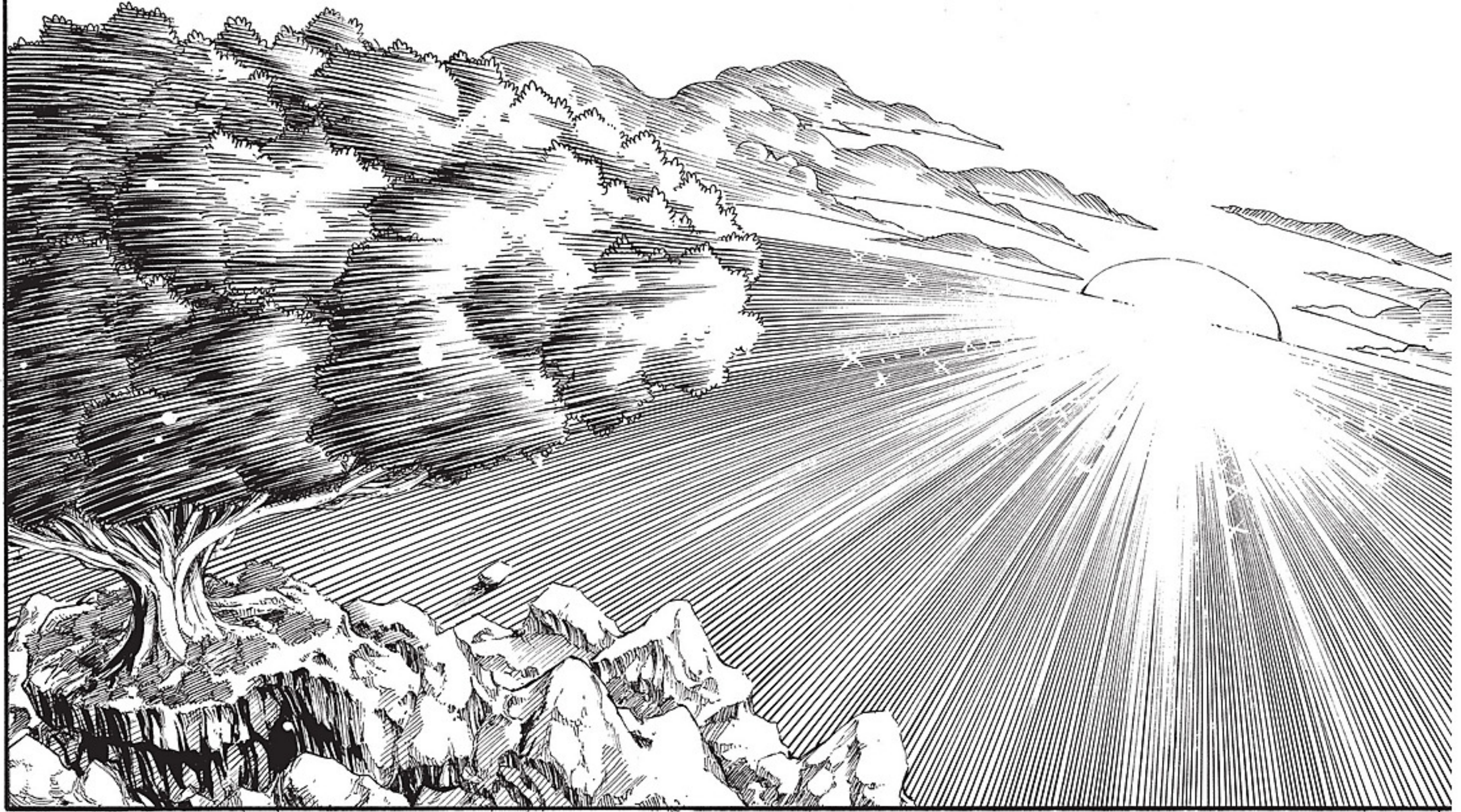
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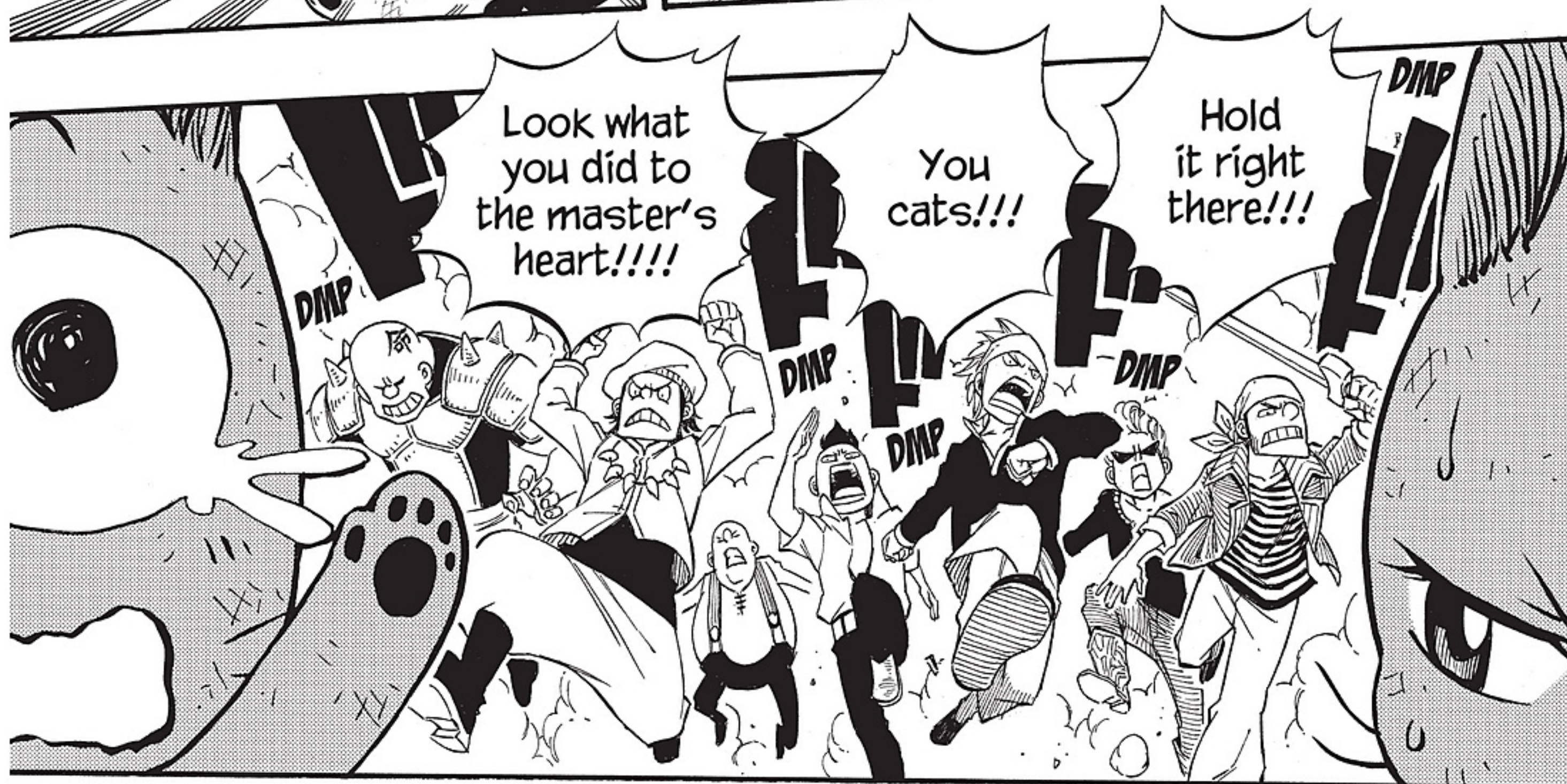
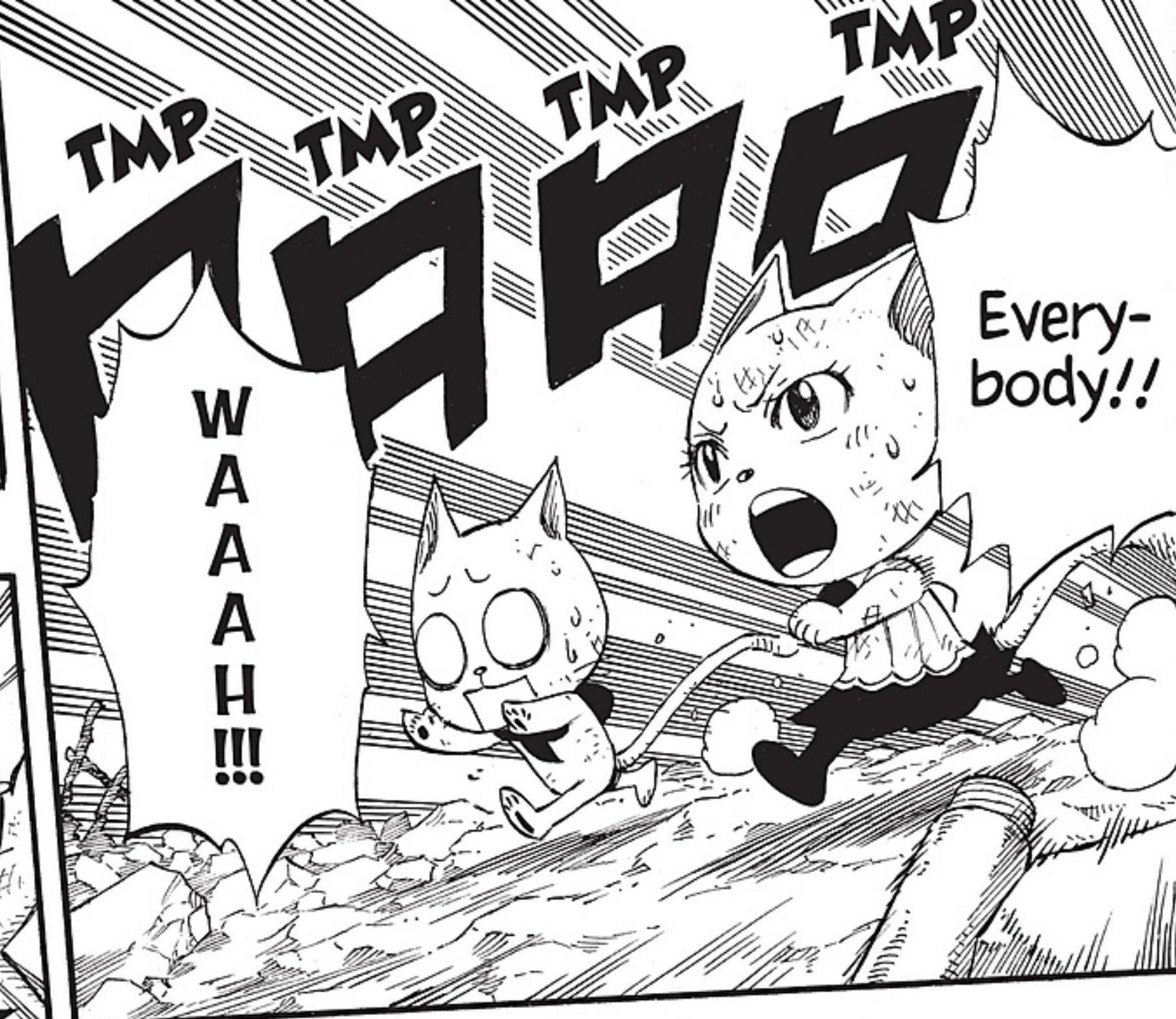
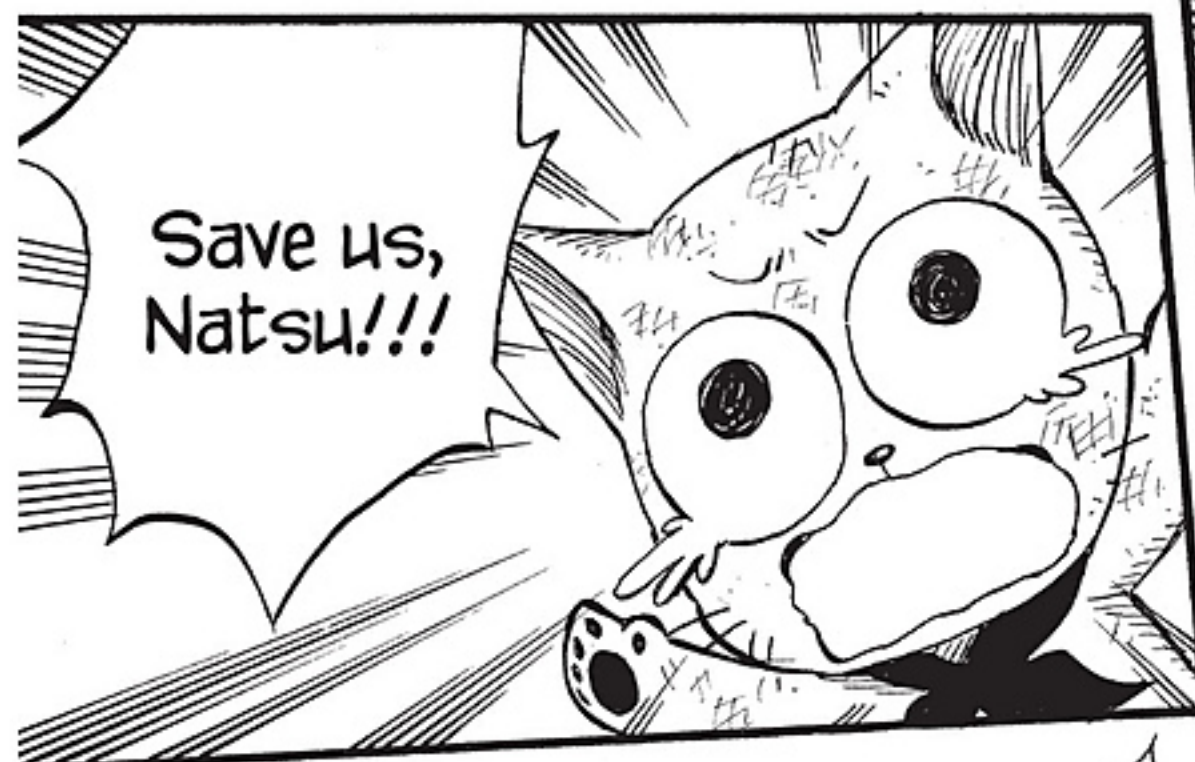
FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

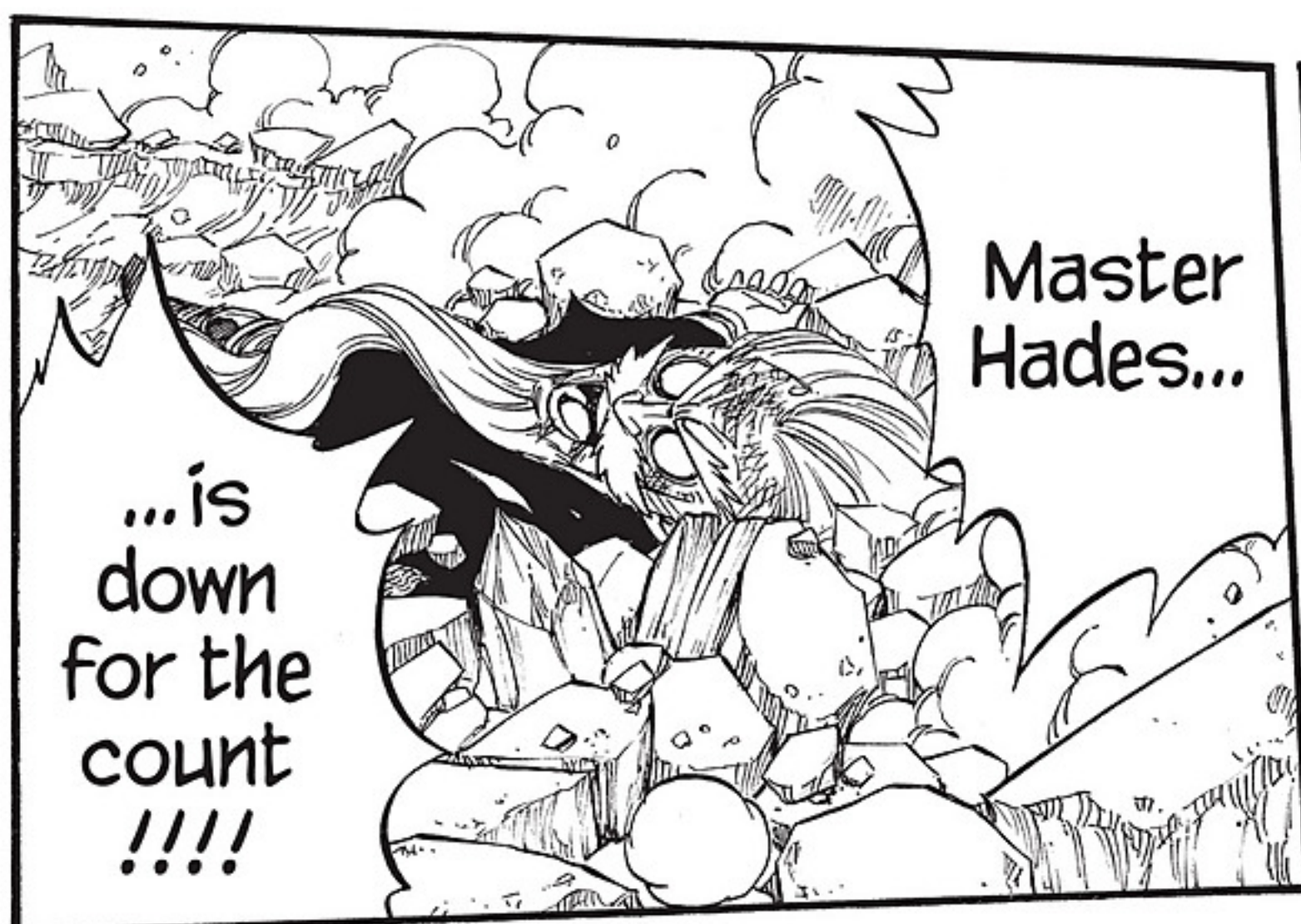
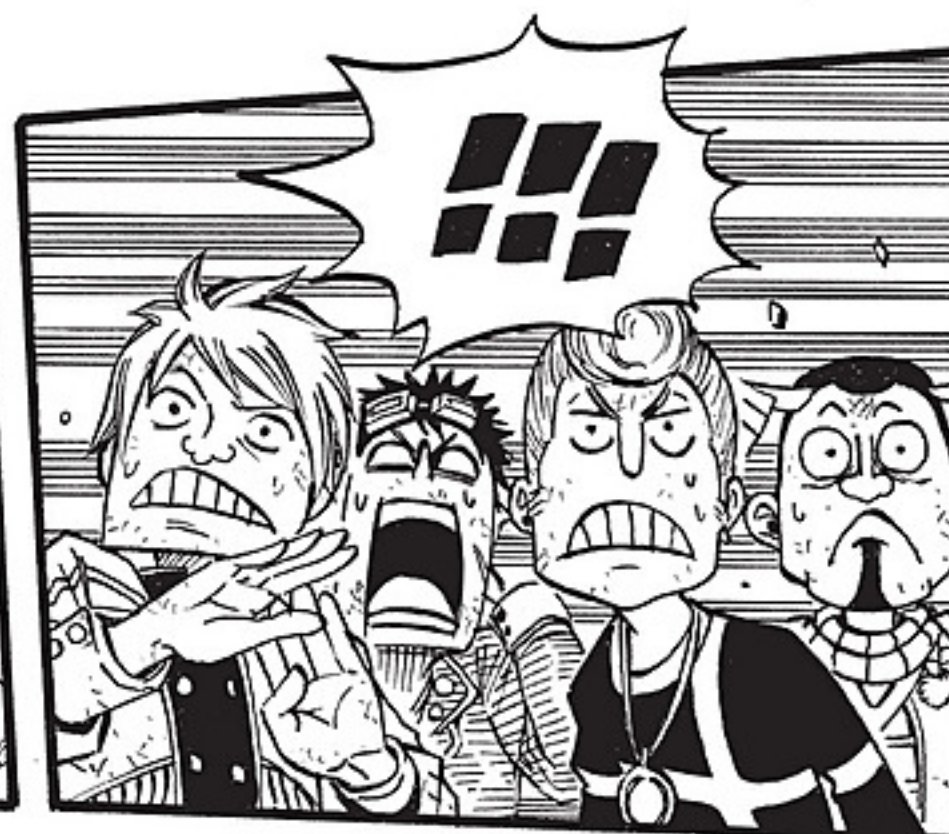
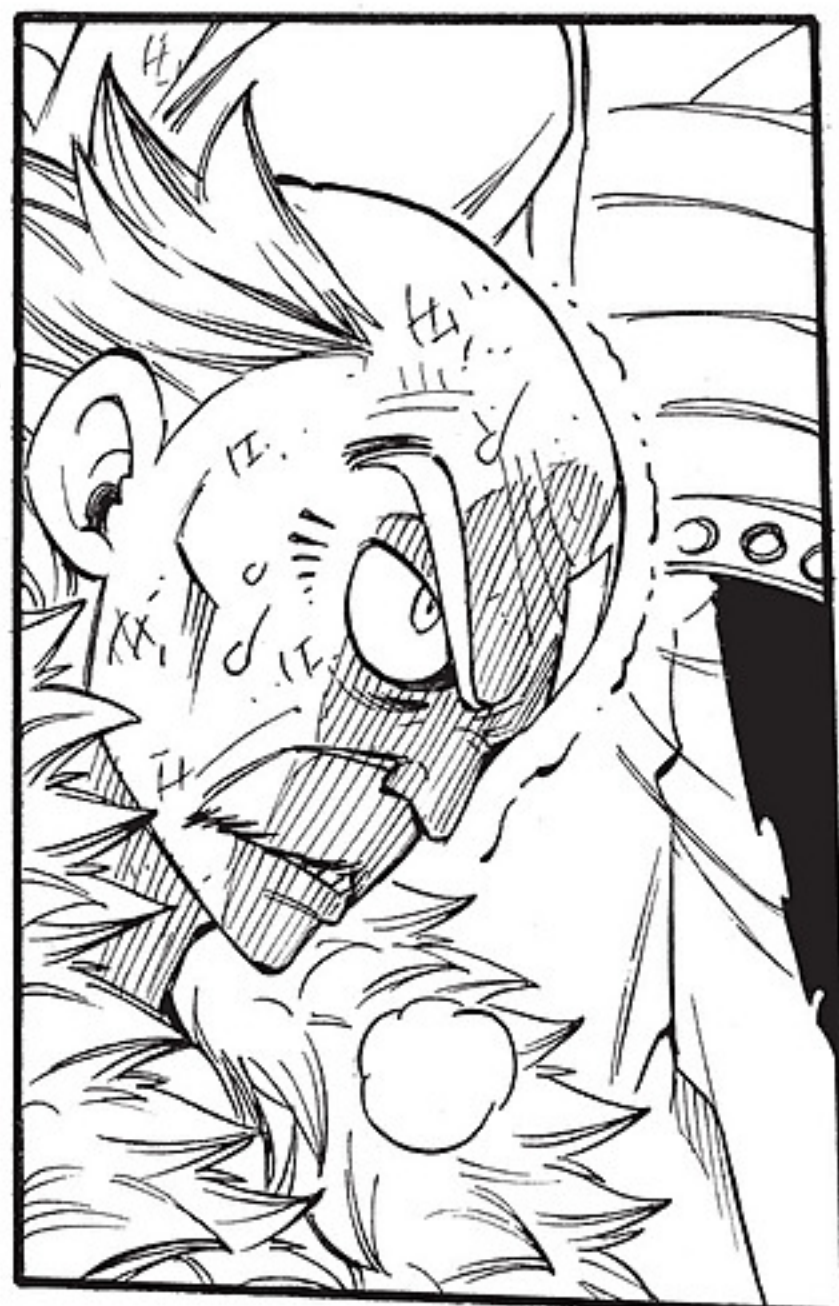
Chapter 249: Magic Is Alive

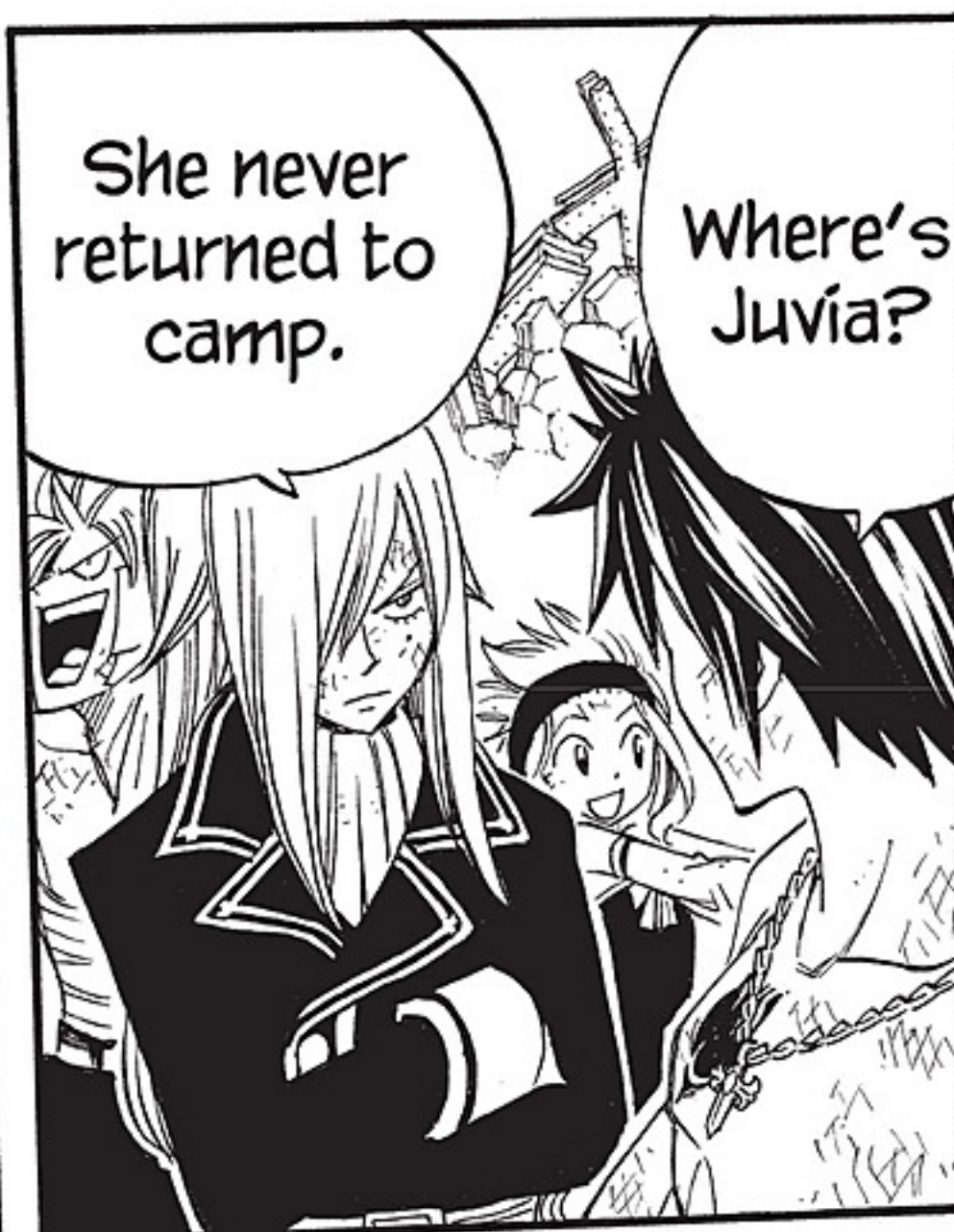


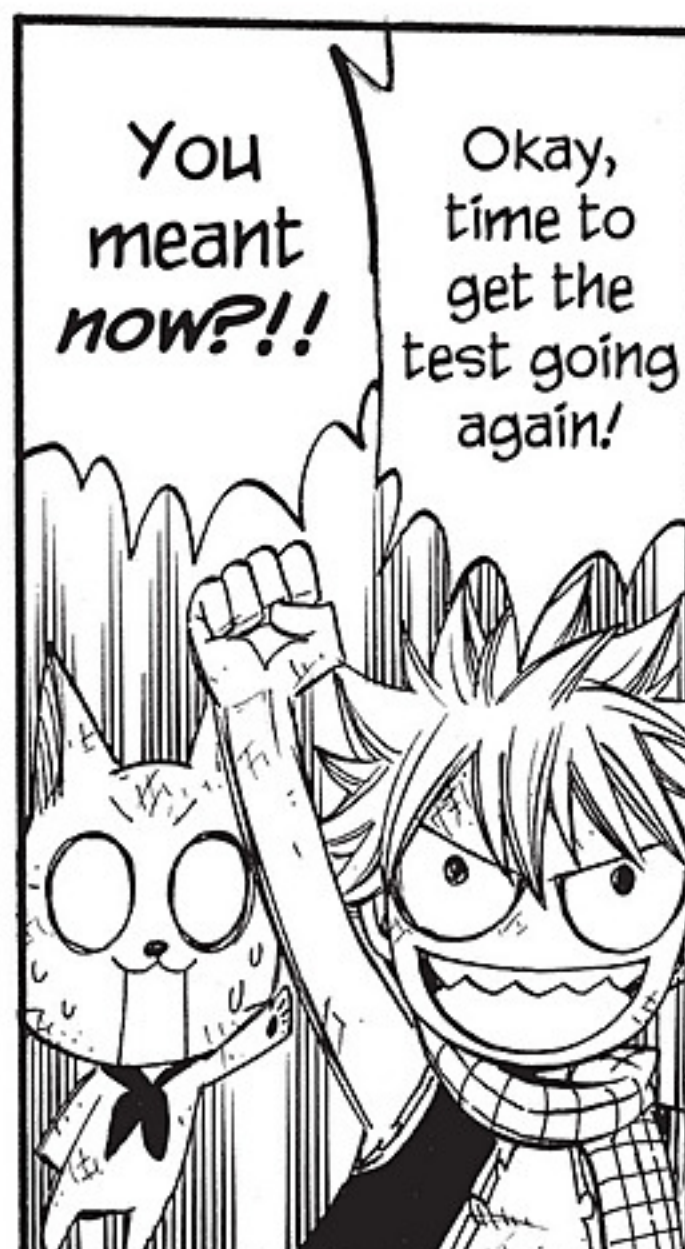
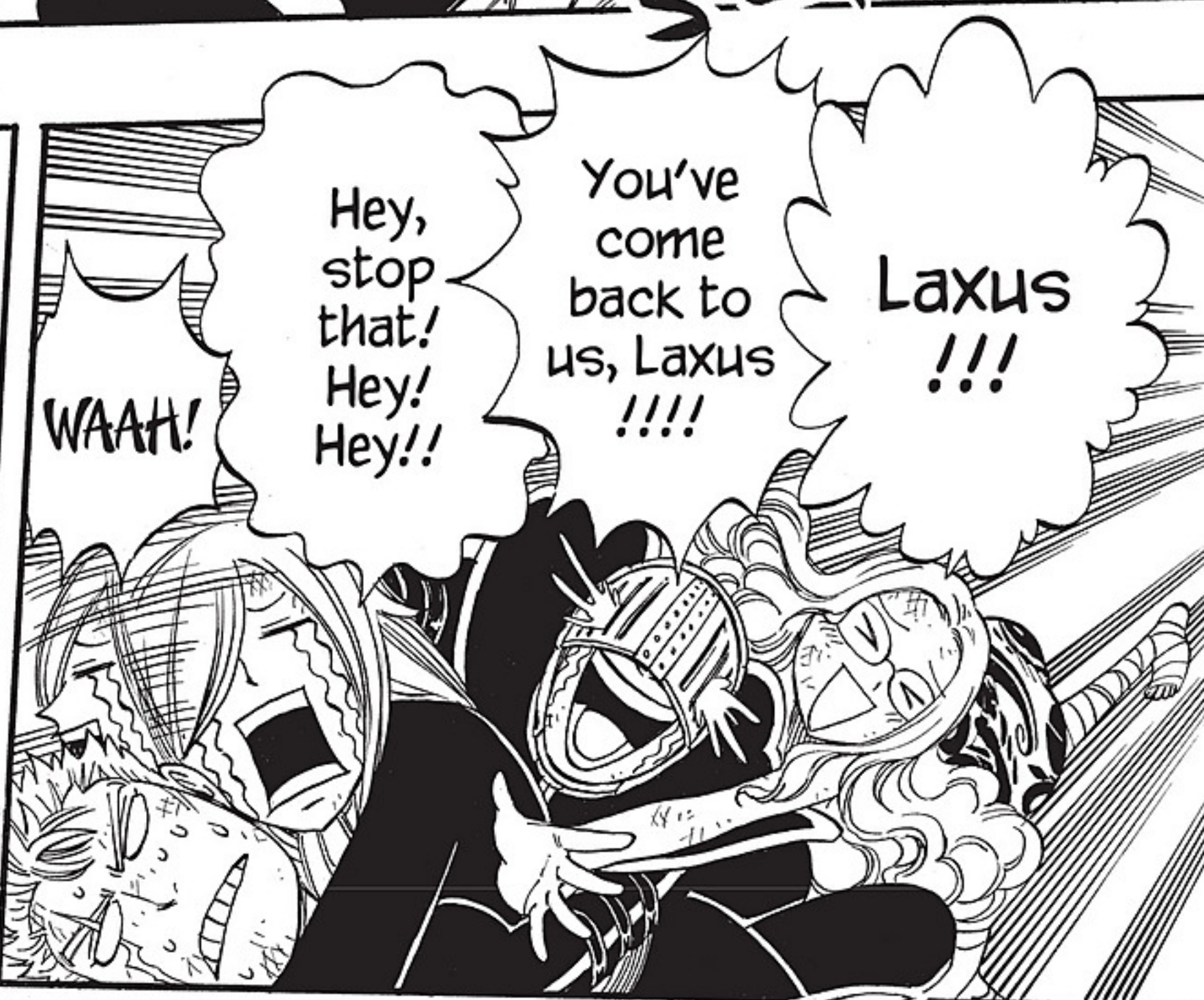
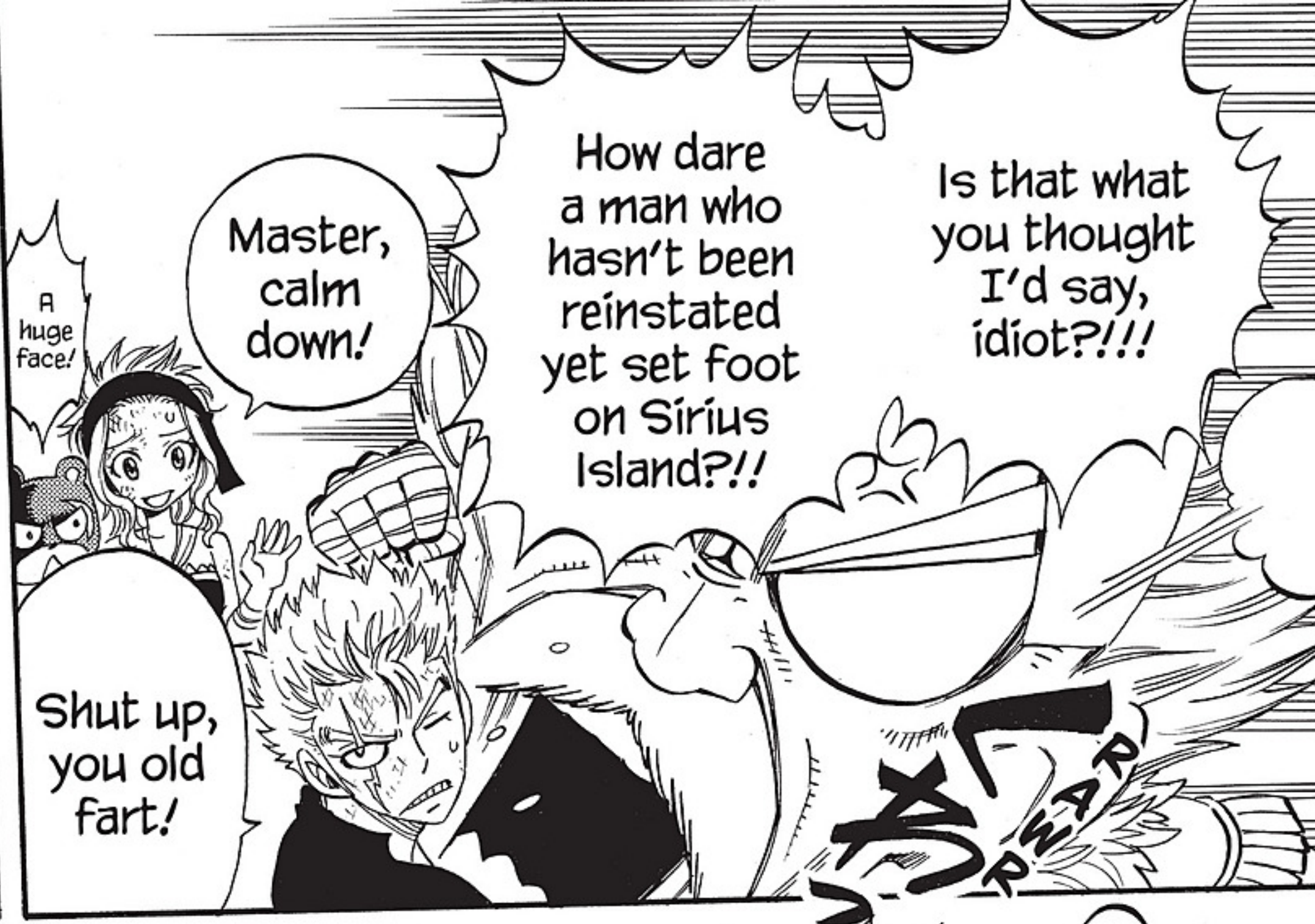
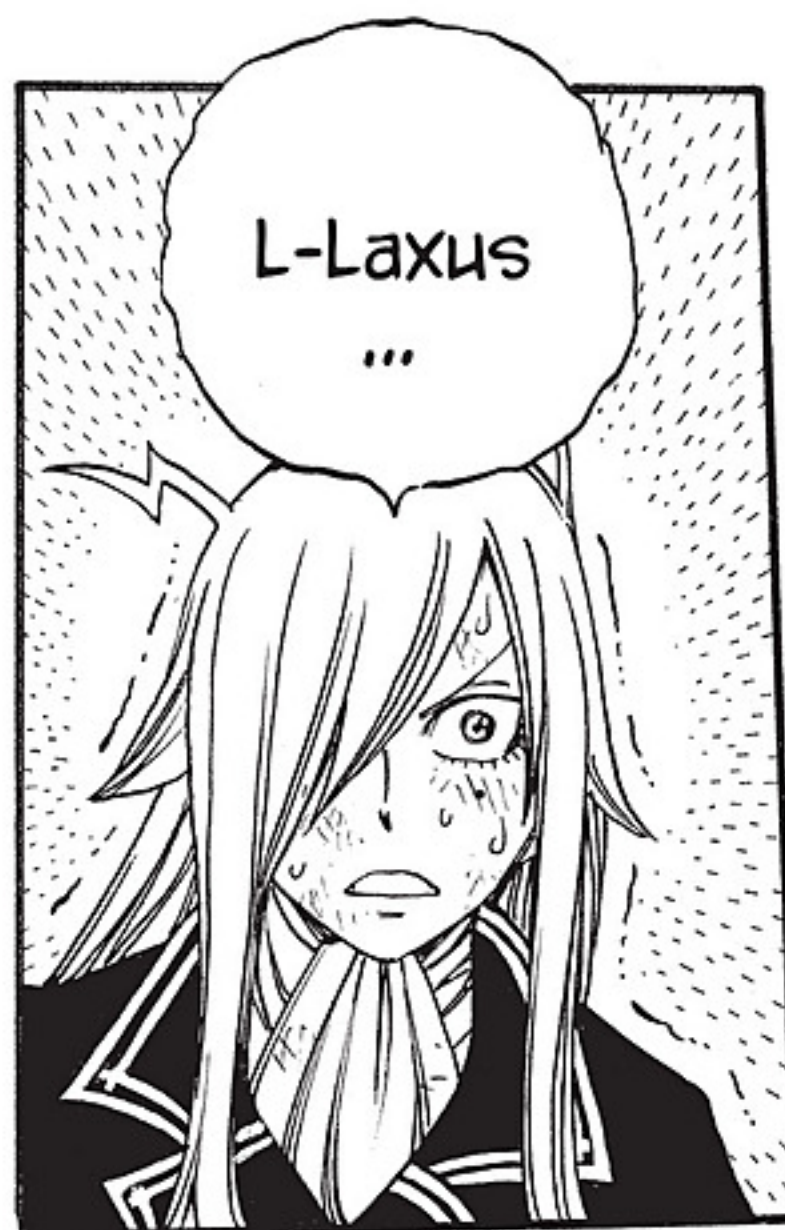


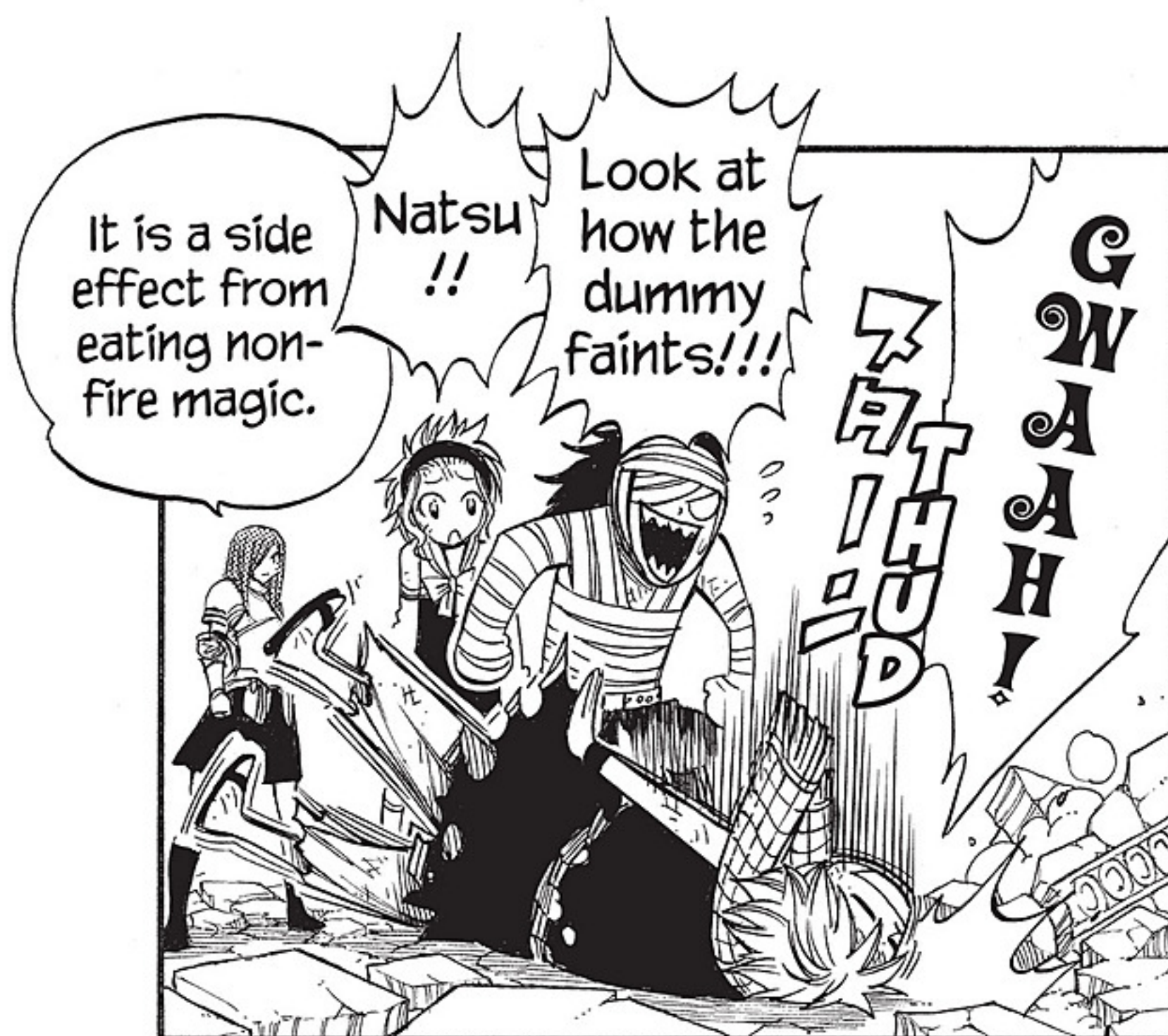




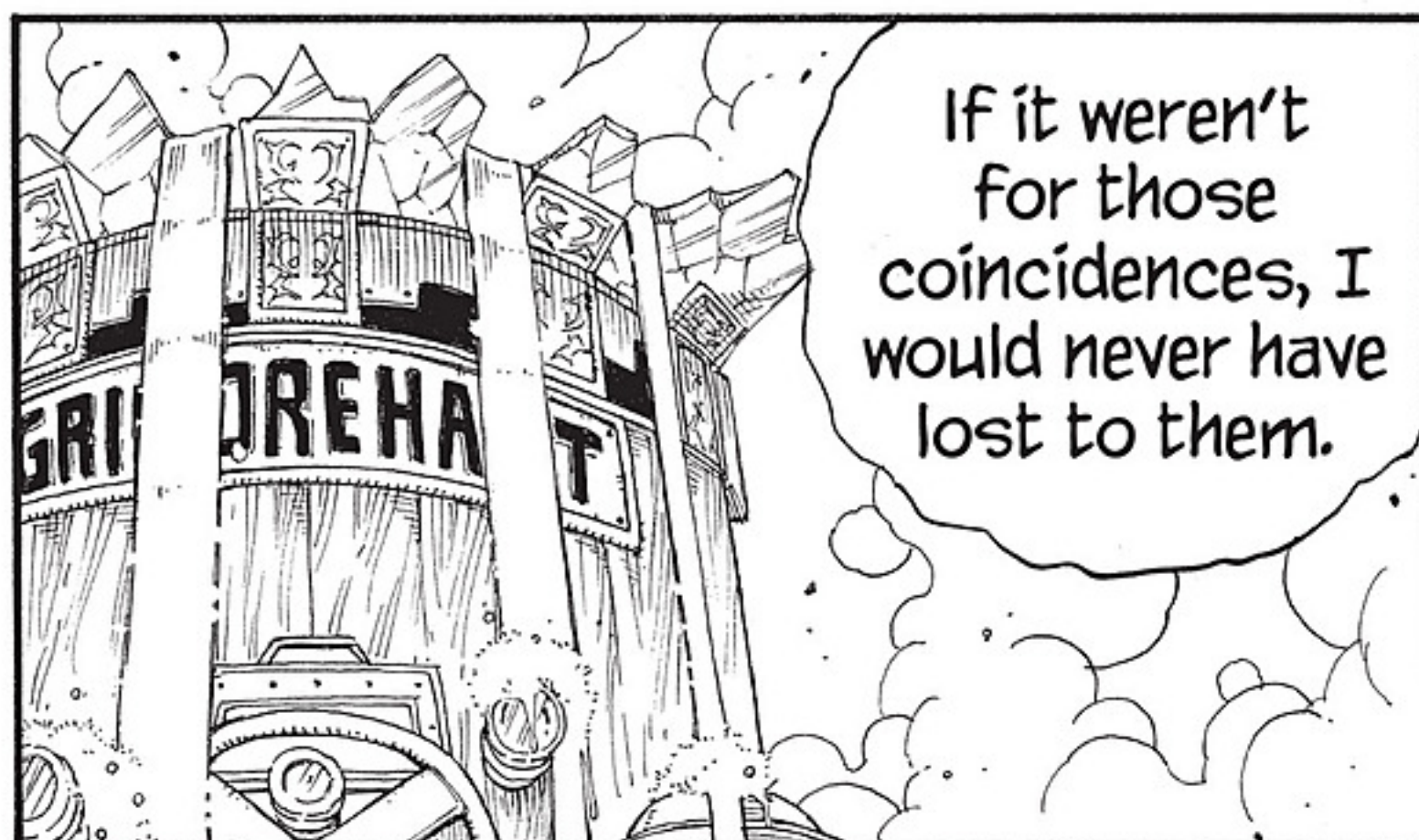




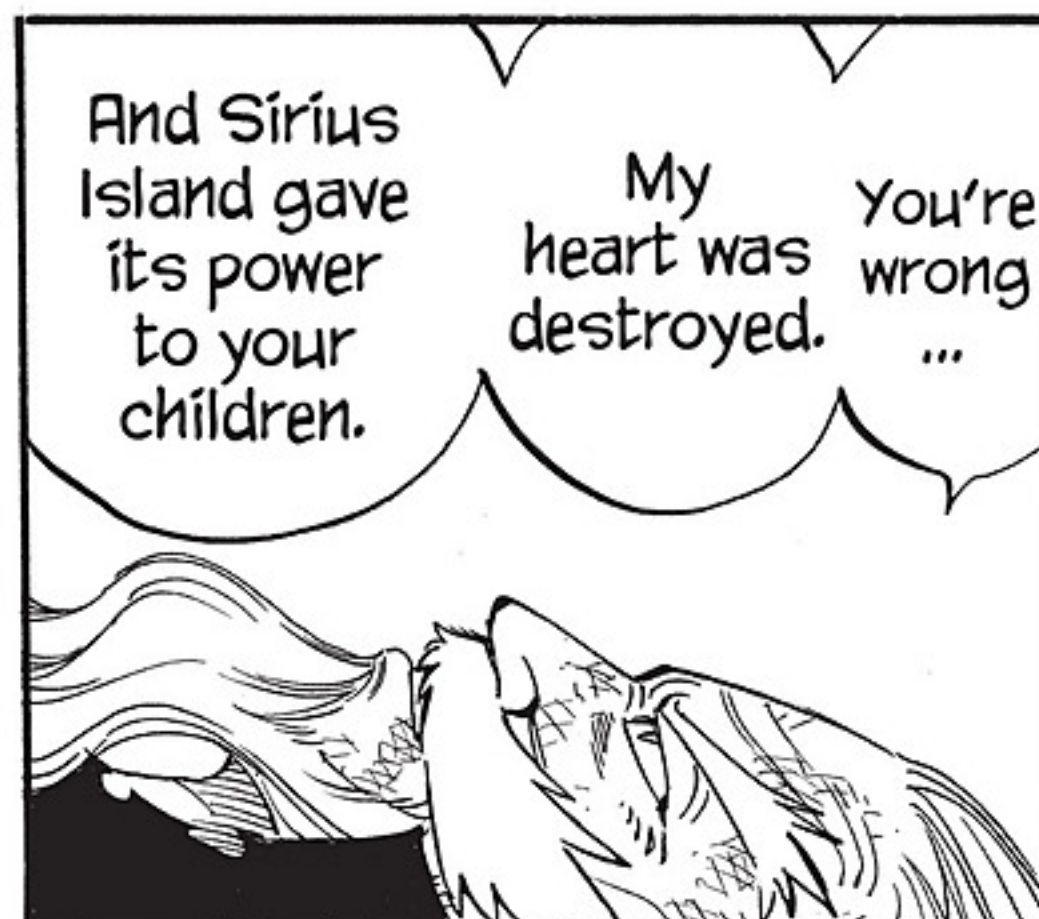








If it weren't
for those
coincidences, I
would never have
lost to them.



And Sirius
Island gave
its power
to your
children.

My
heart was
destroyed.

You're
wrong
...

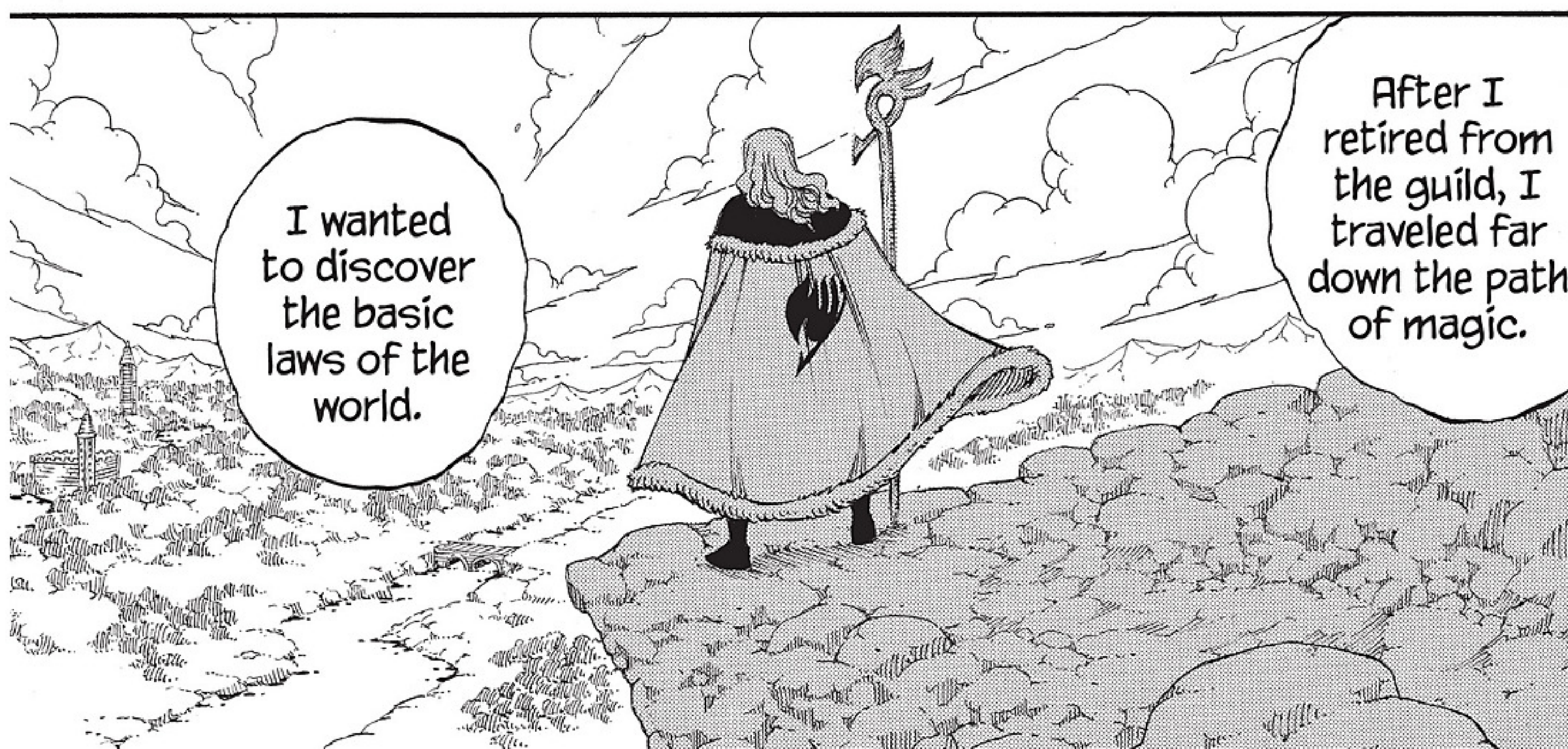


Why
did you
fall into
darkness?



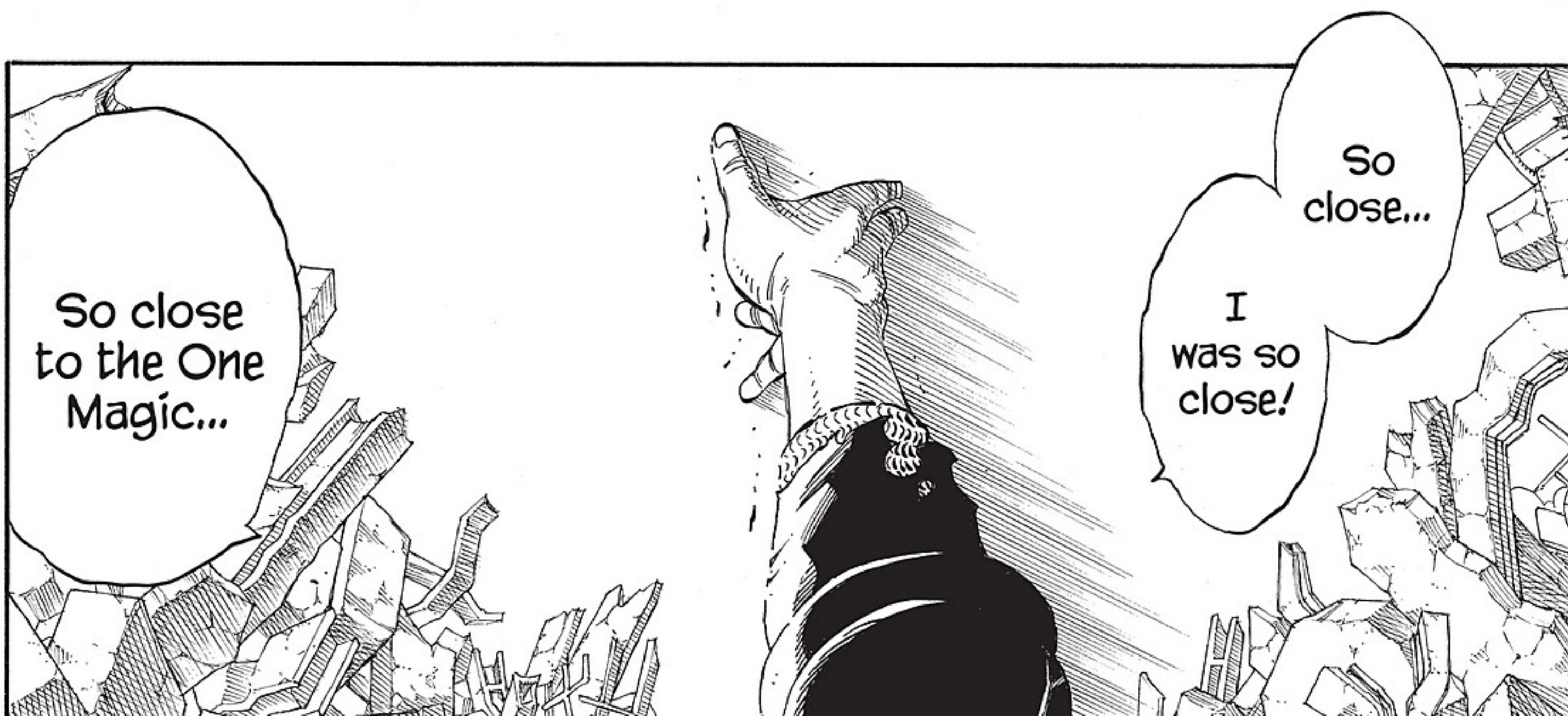
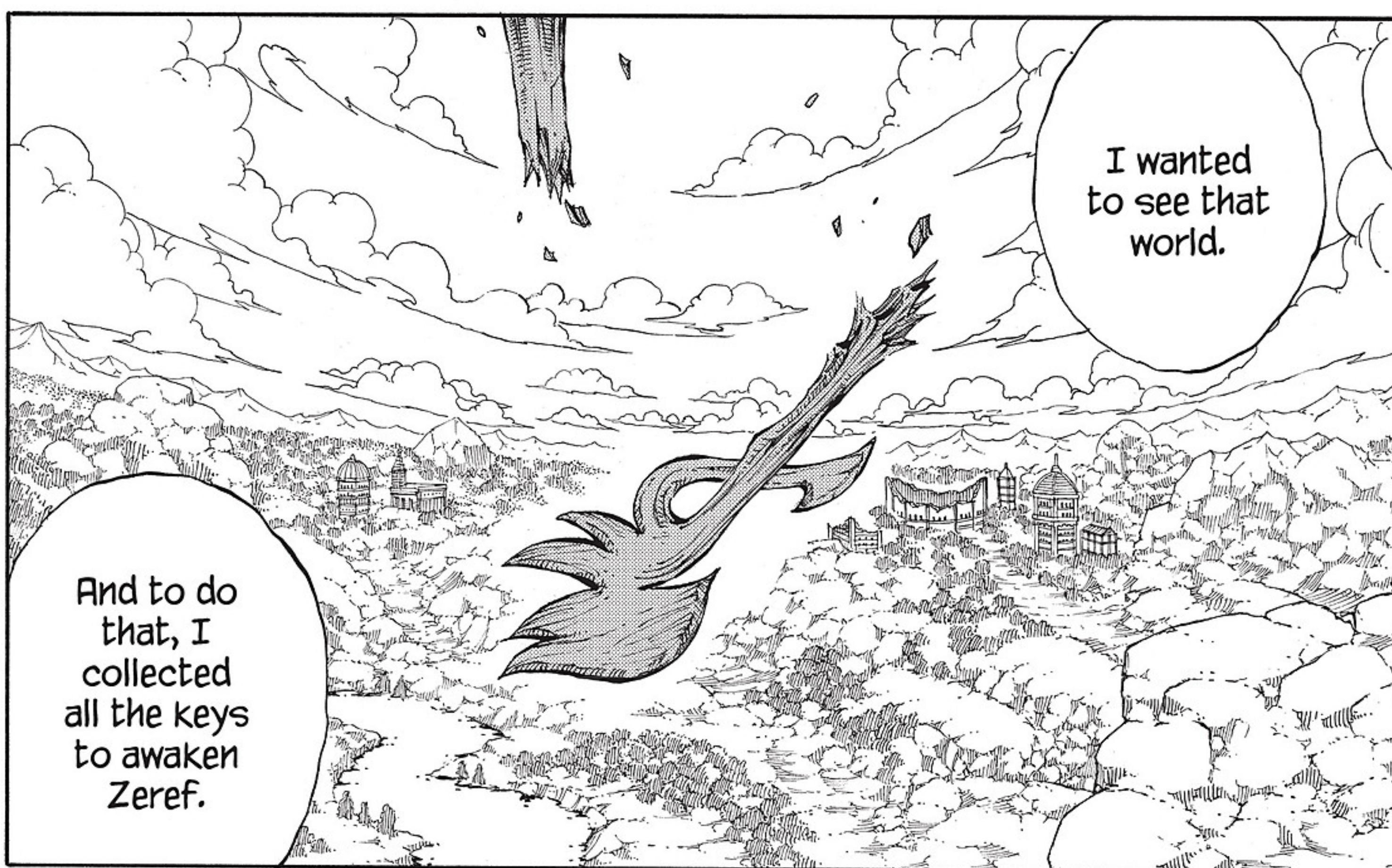
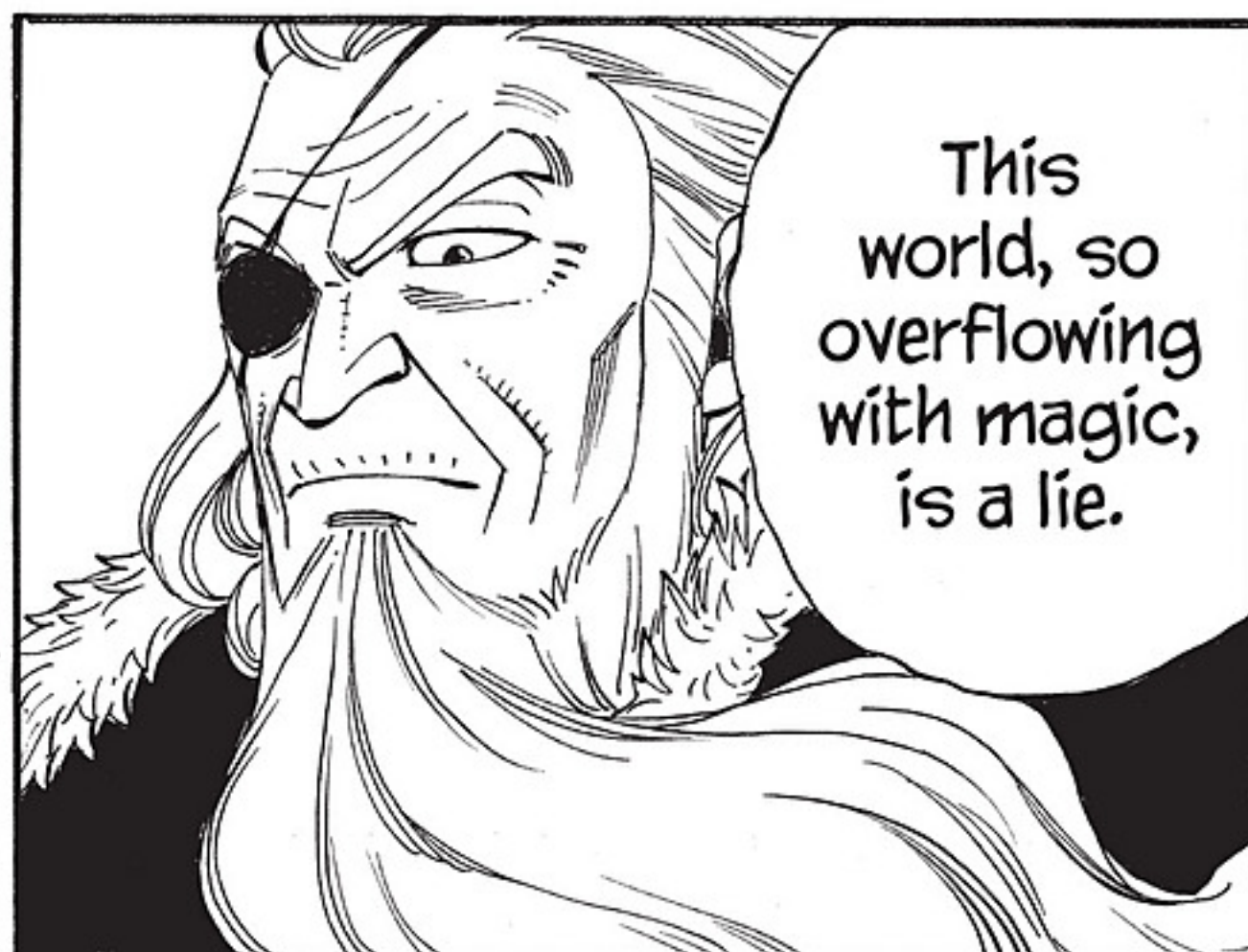
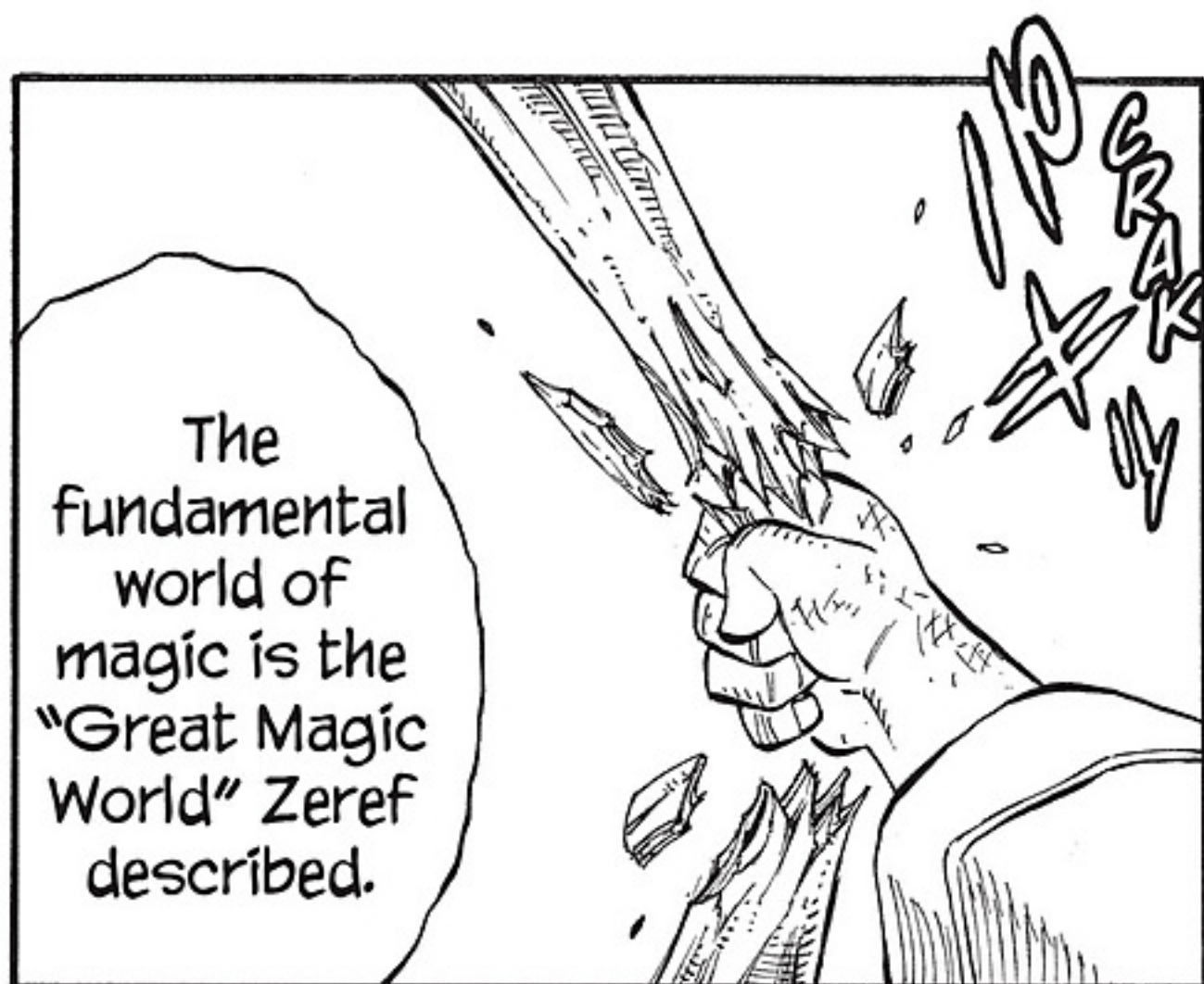
And the
miracle
born of the
darkness is
what people
call magic.

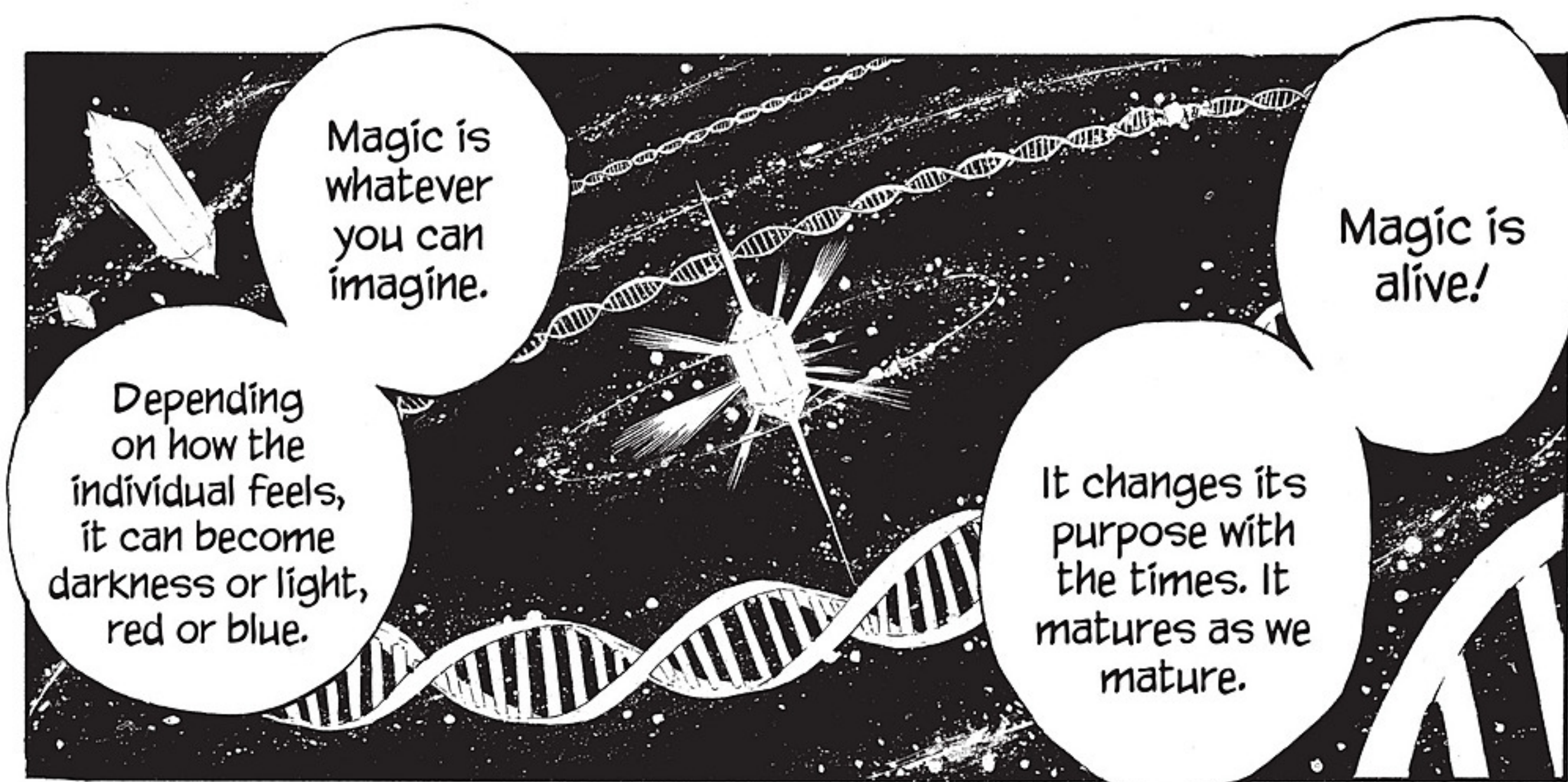
I already
told you...
The basis
of magic *is*
darkness!

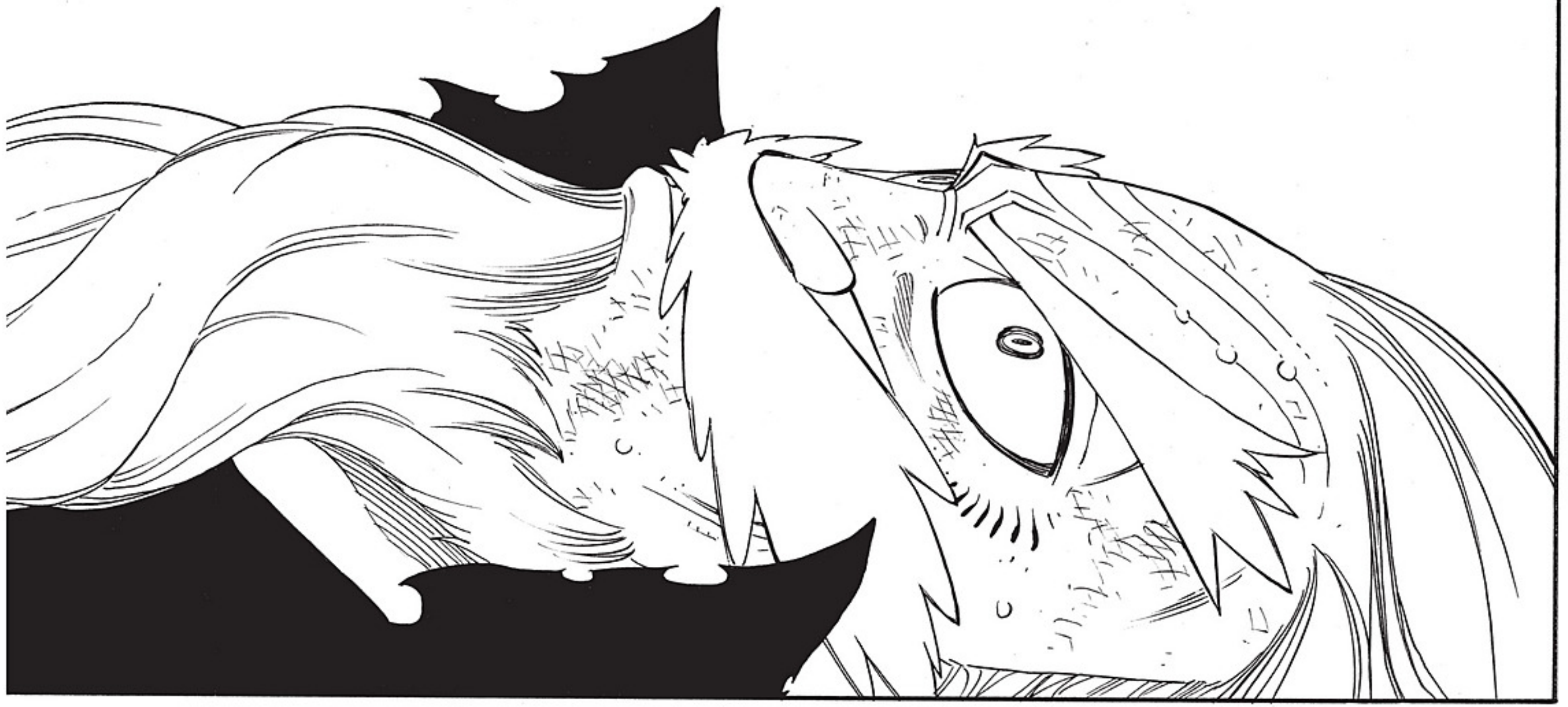


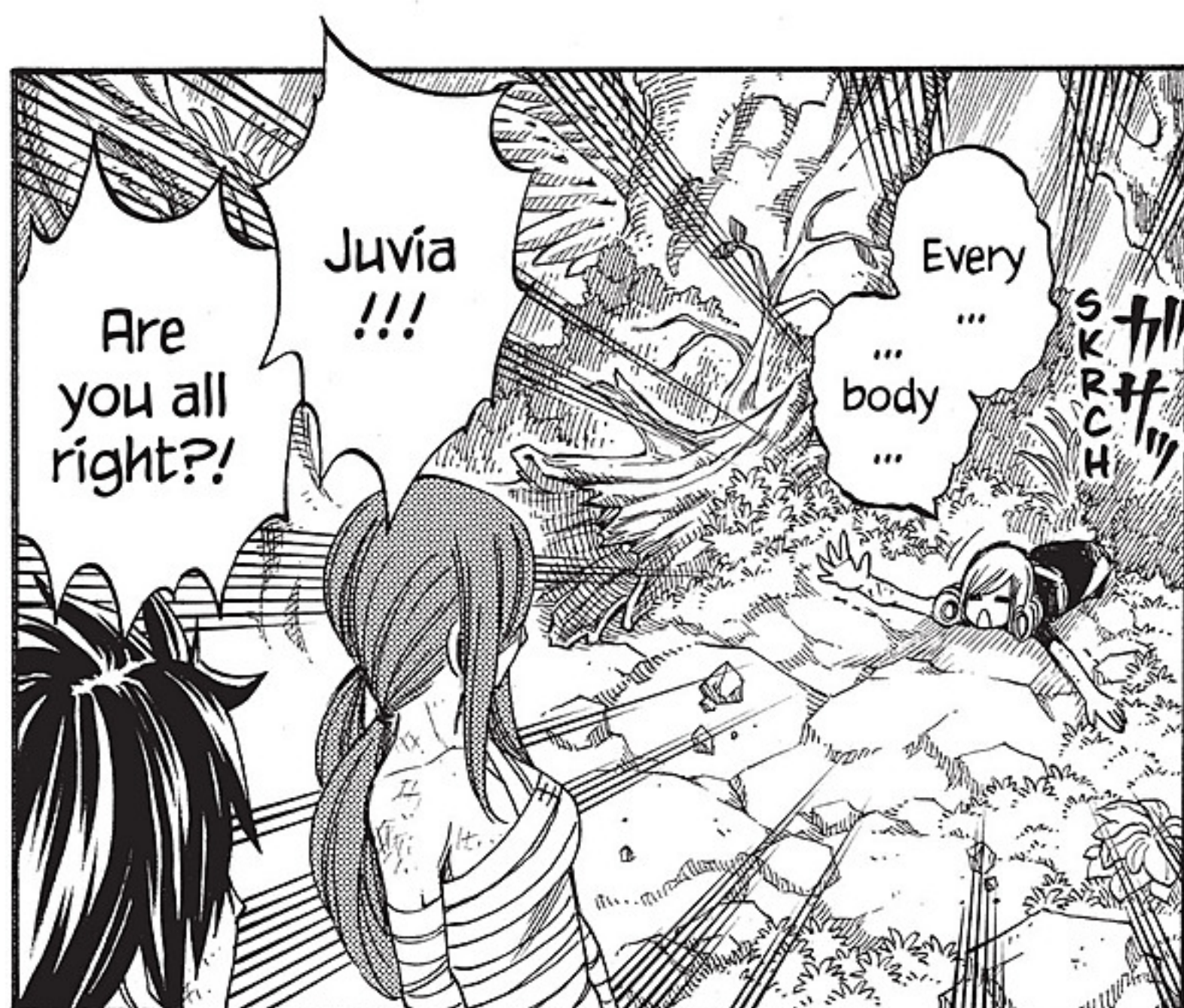
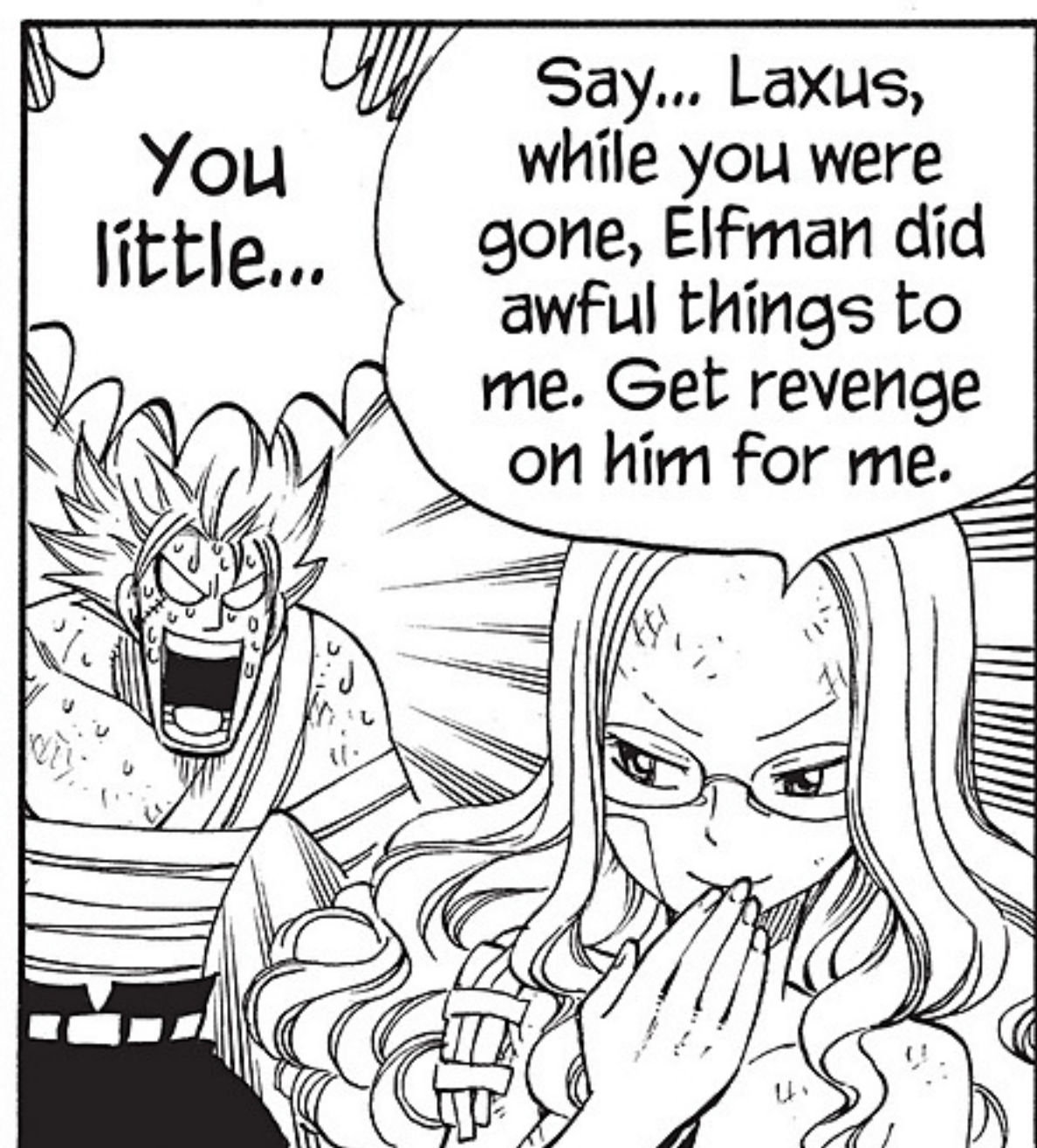
I wanted
to discover
the basic
laws of the
world.

After I
retired from
the guild, I
traveled far
down the path
of magic.



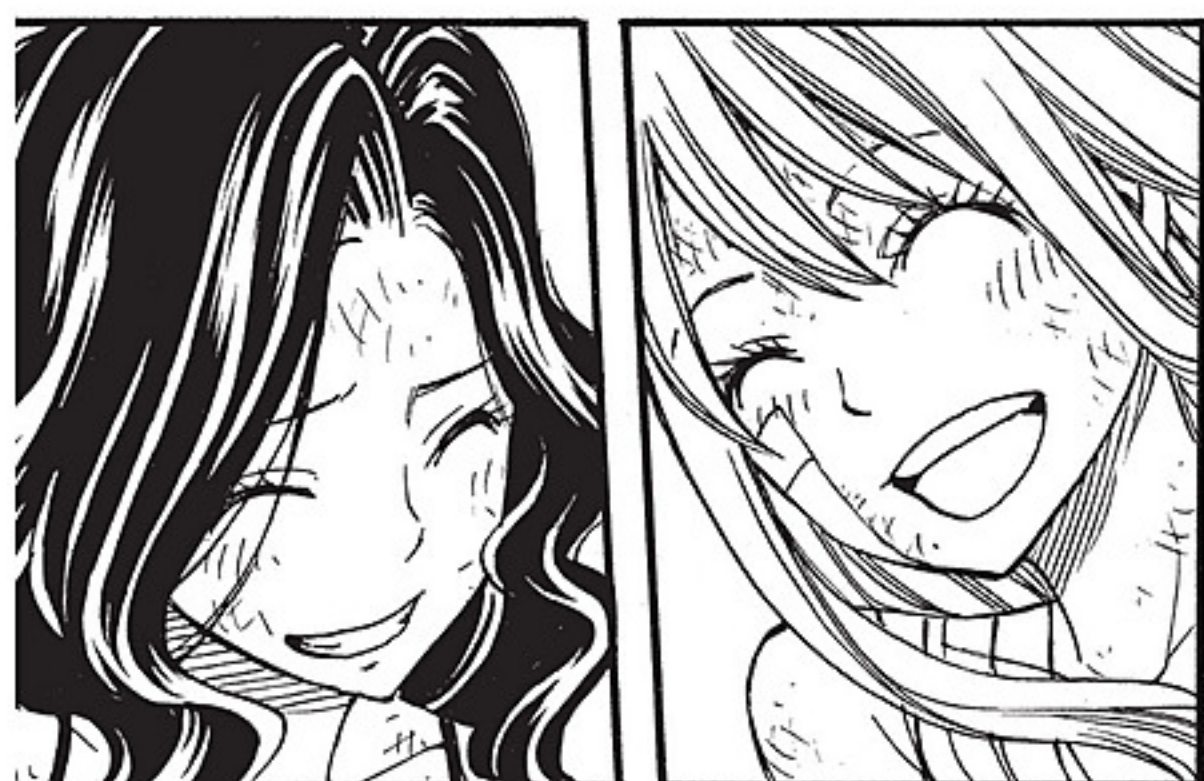
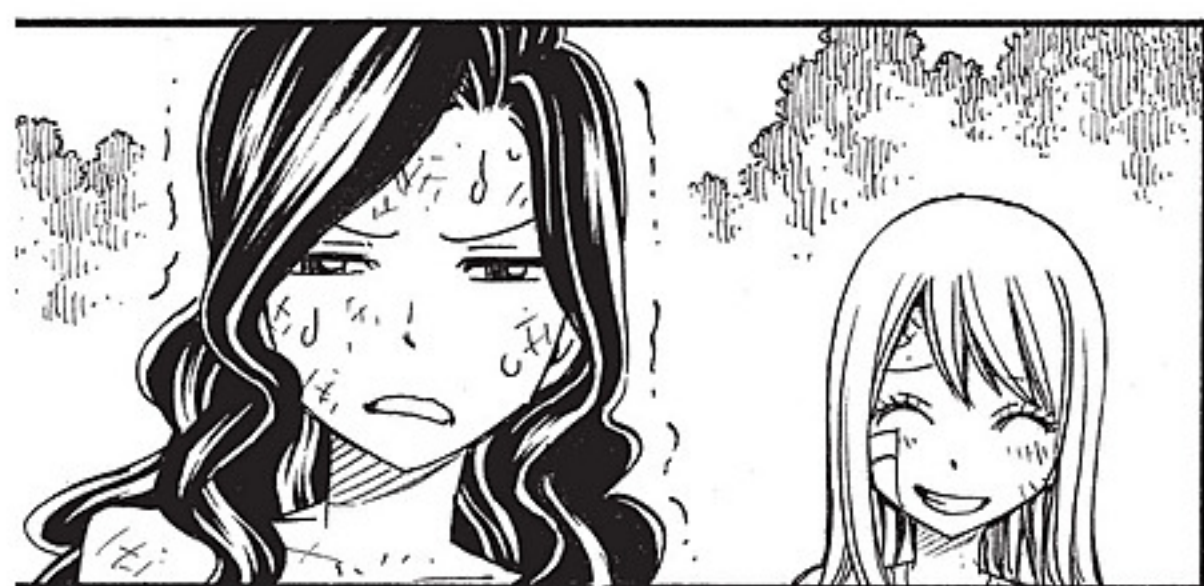
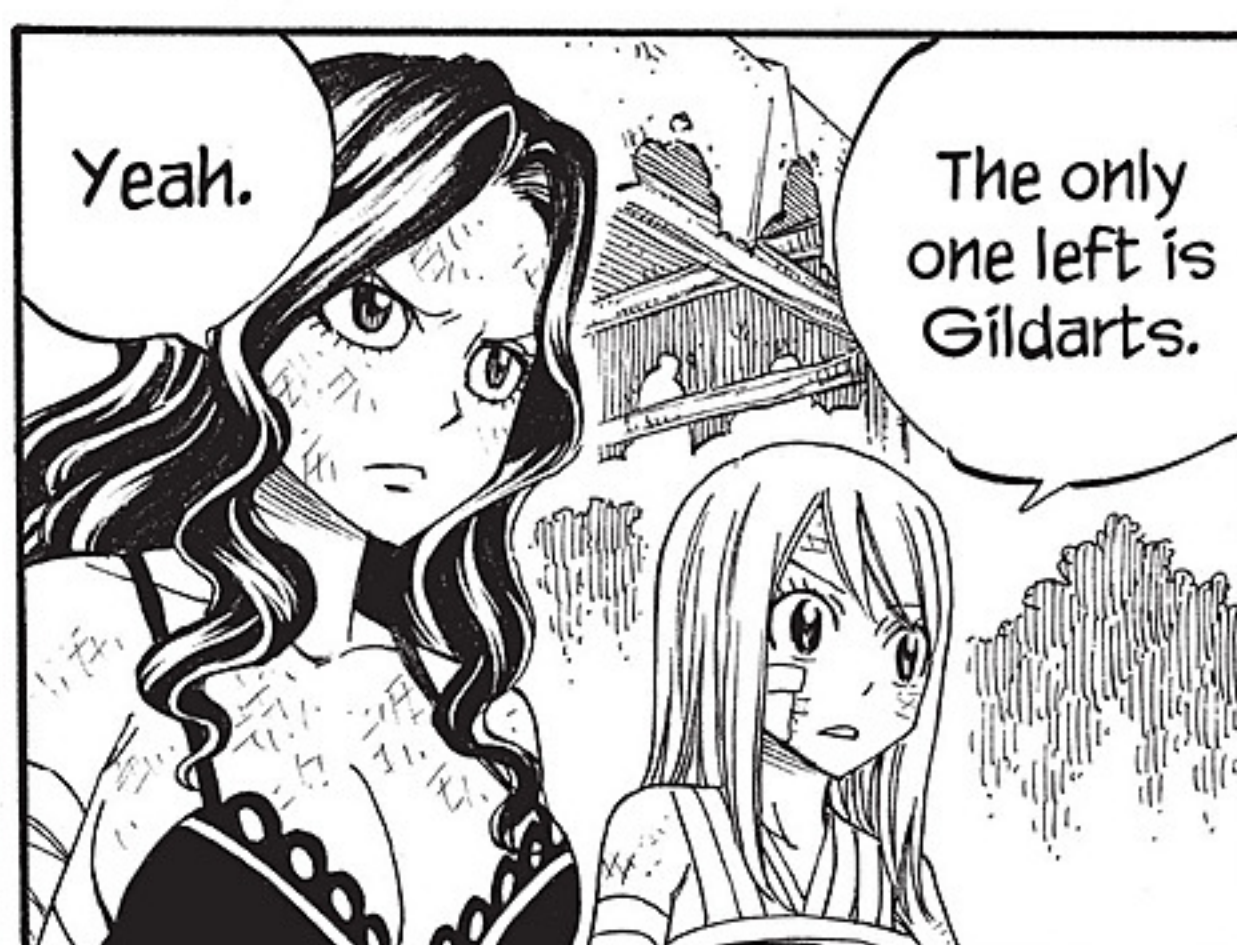


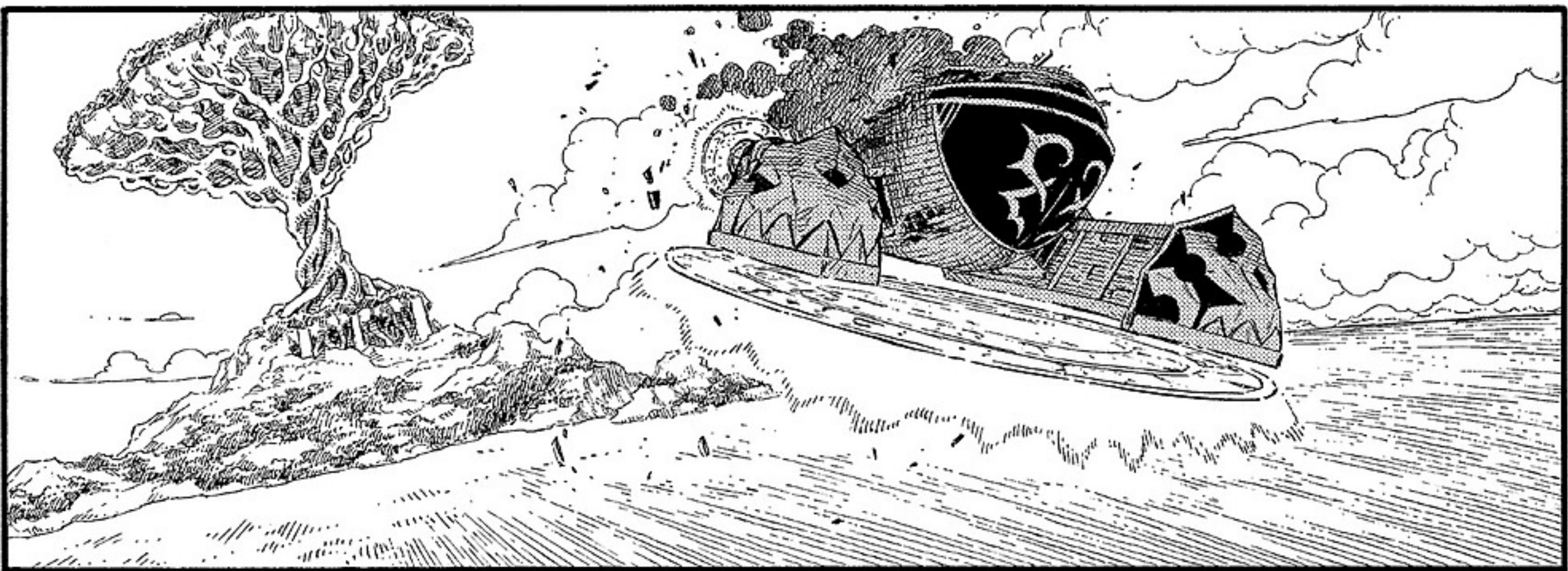


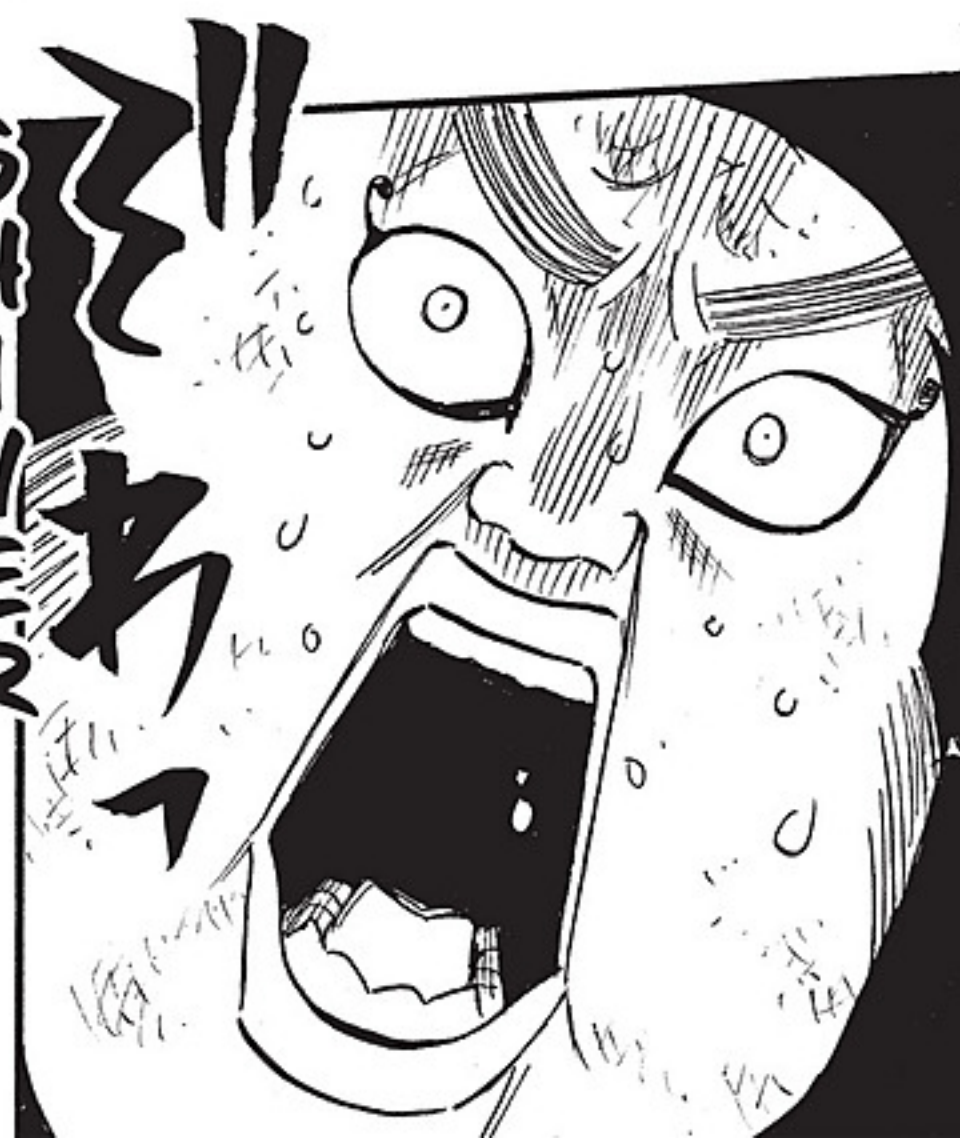




**You
taught
me all
of that!**



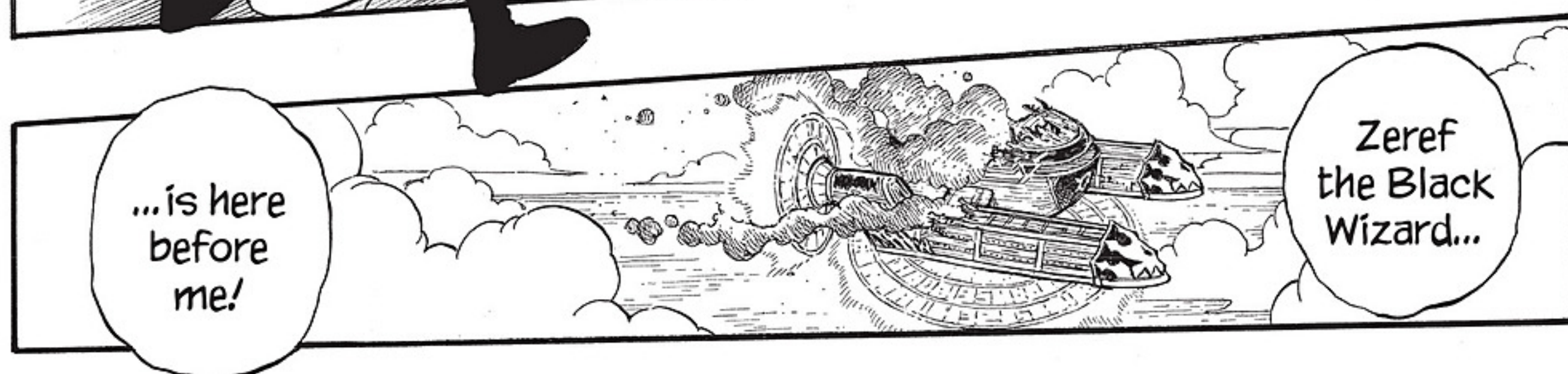
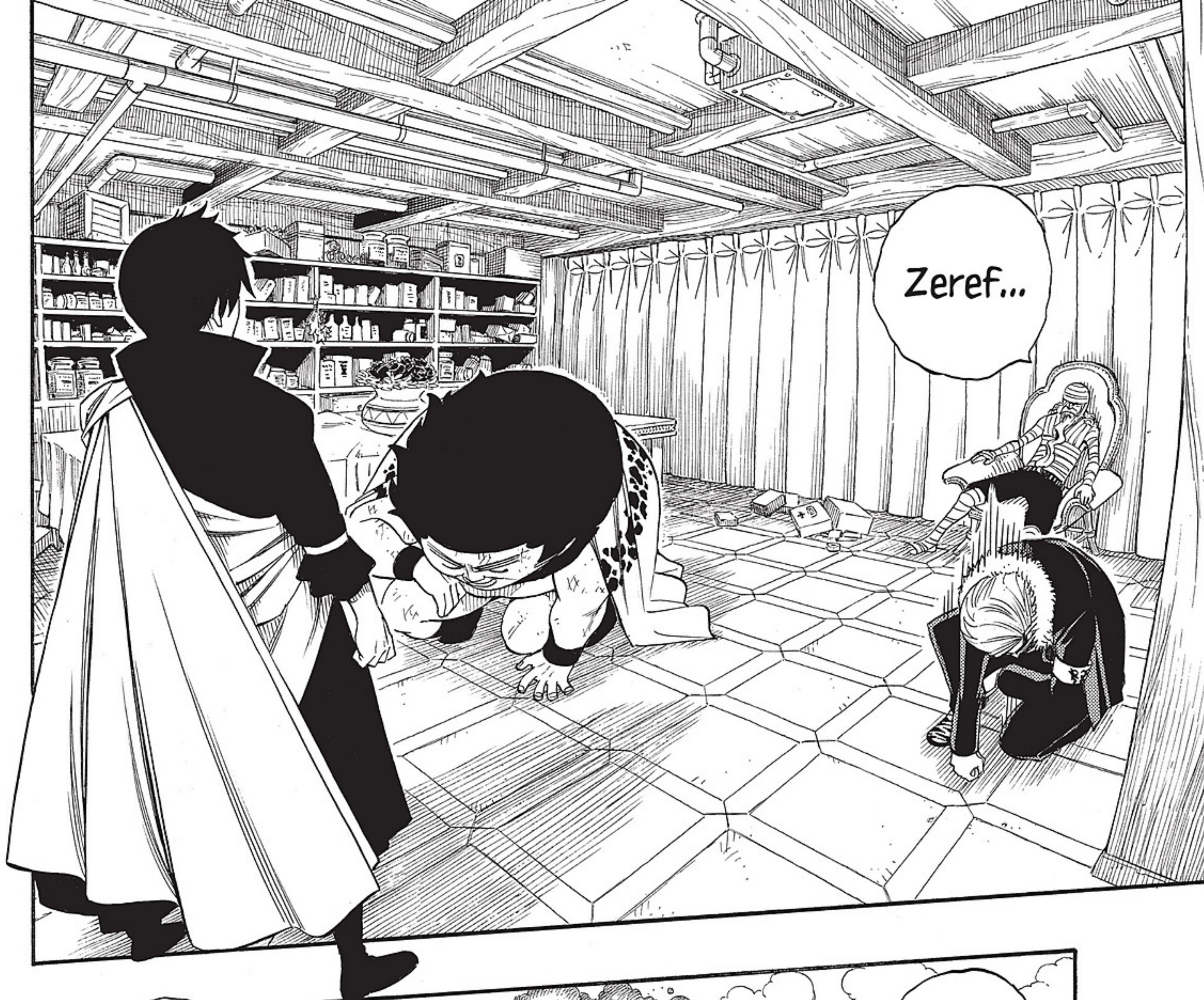


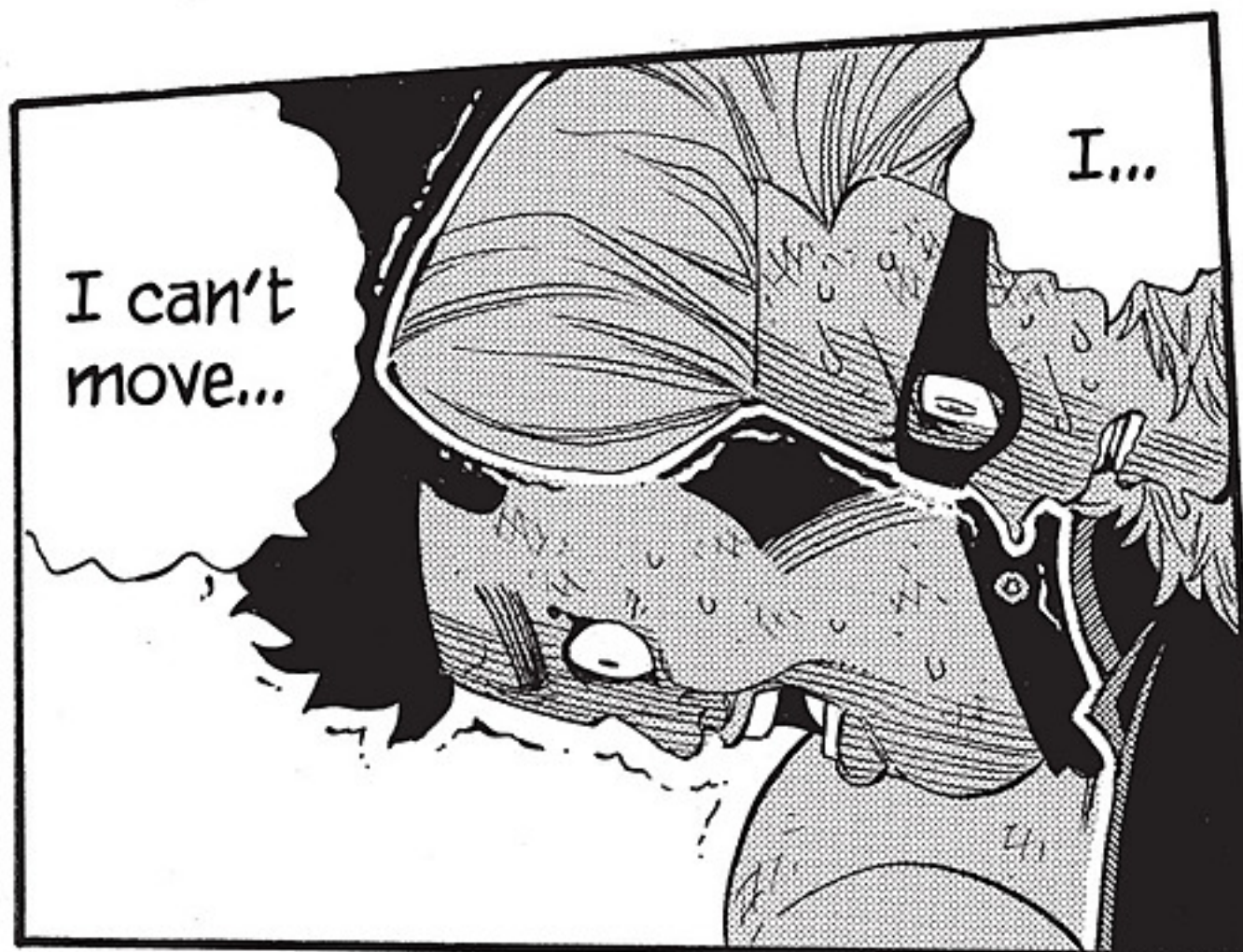
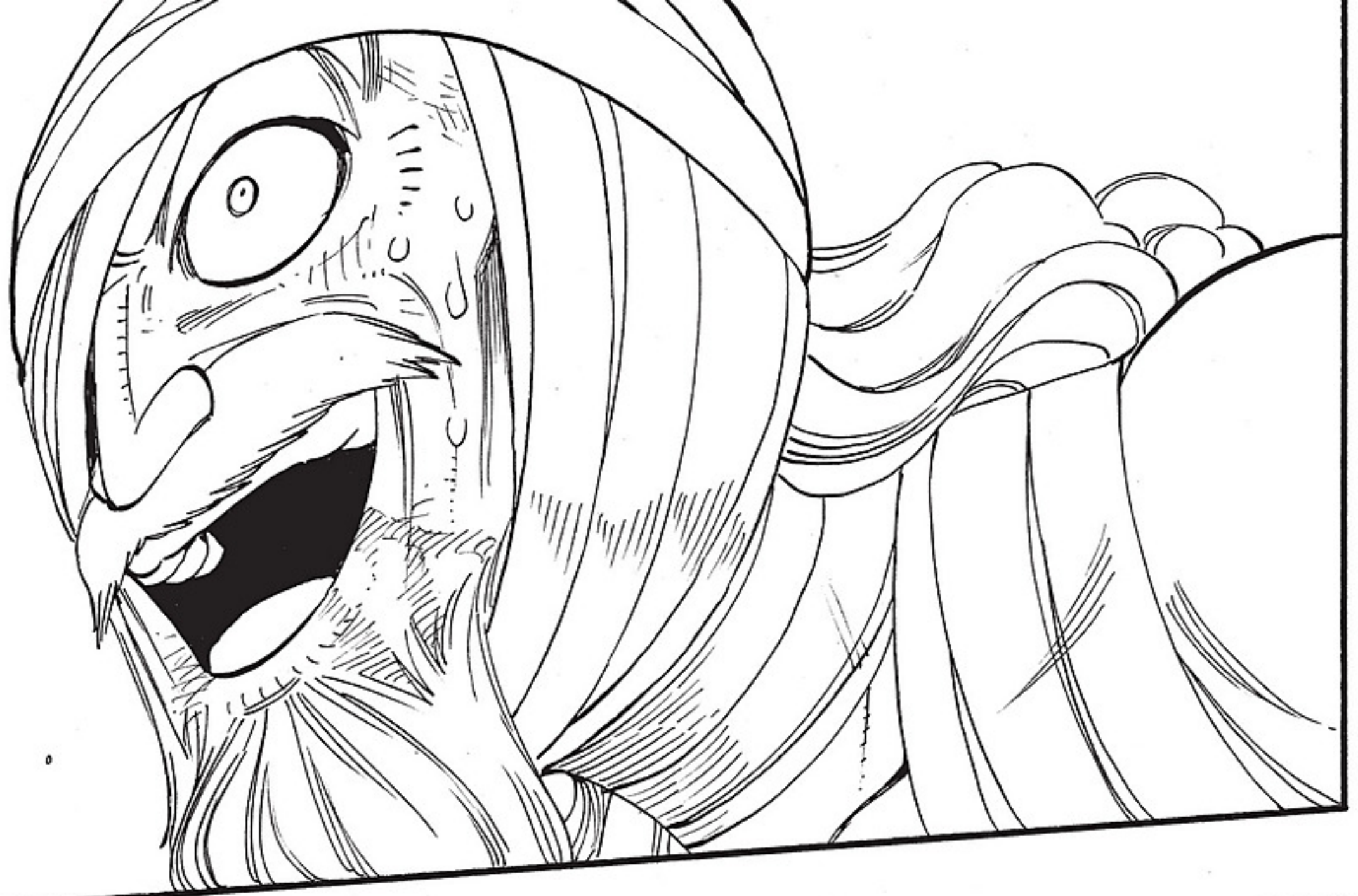






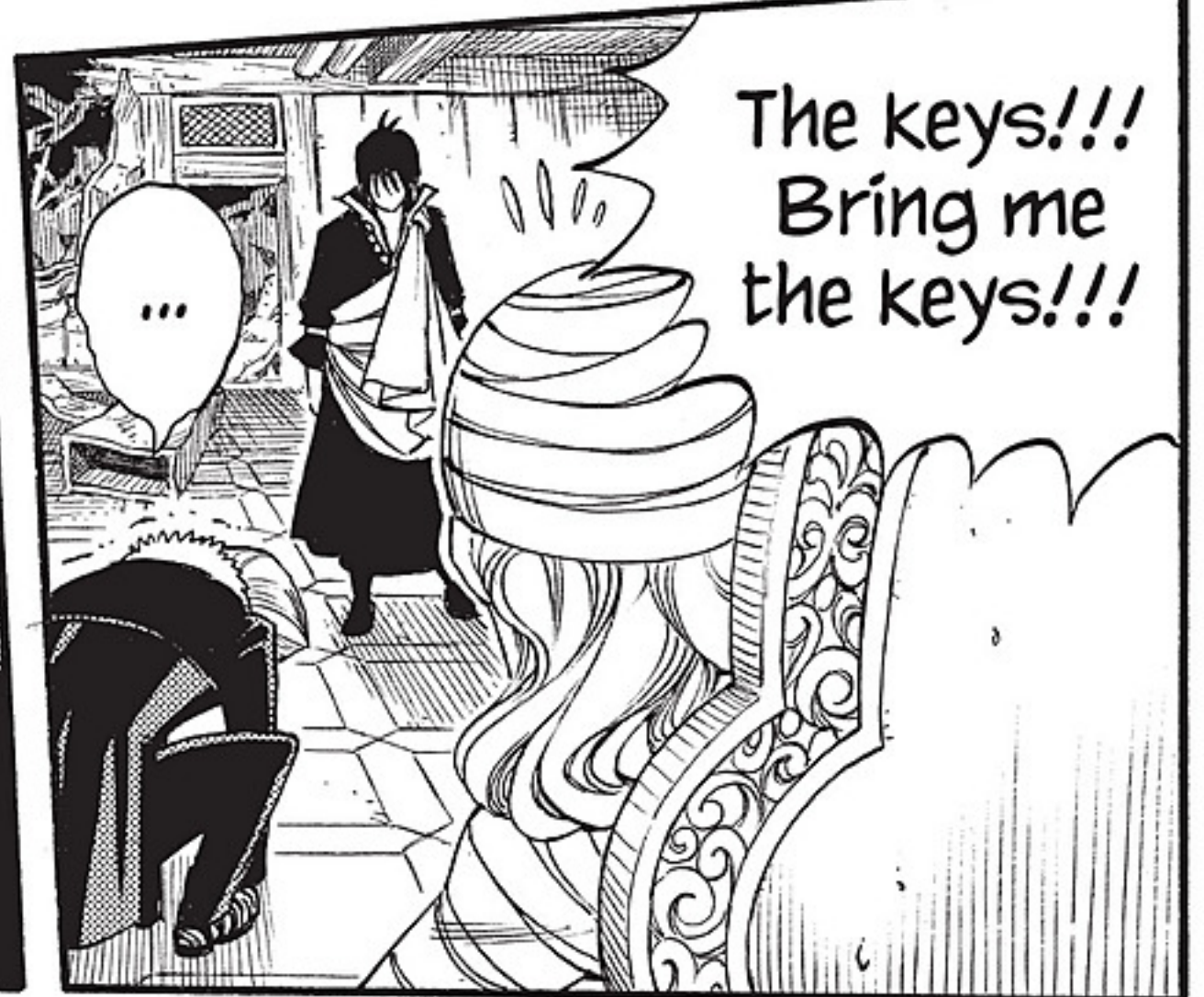
Chapter 250: Zeref Awakened



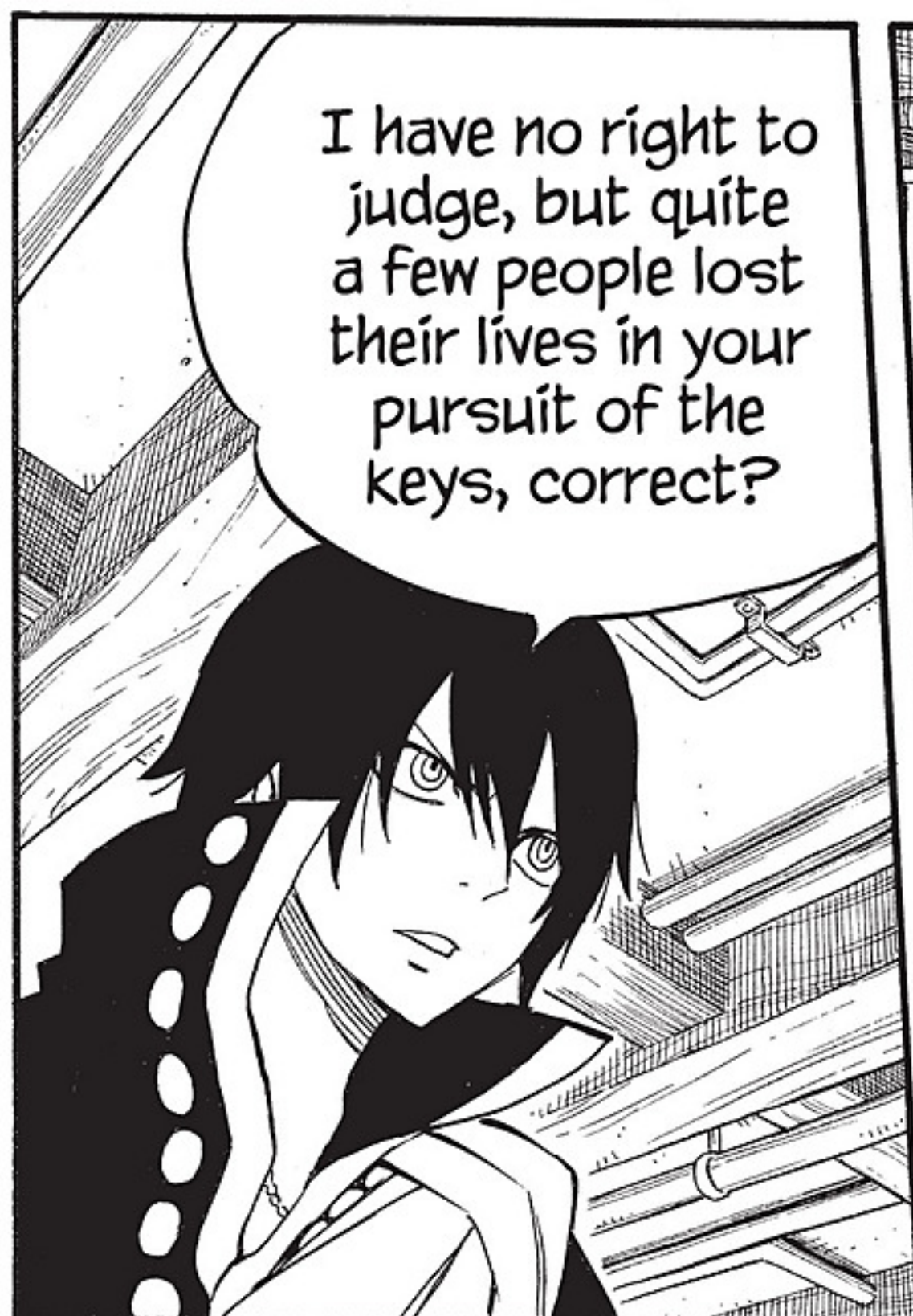


I can't move...

I...



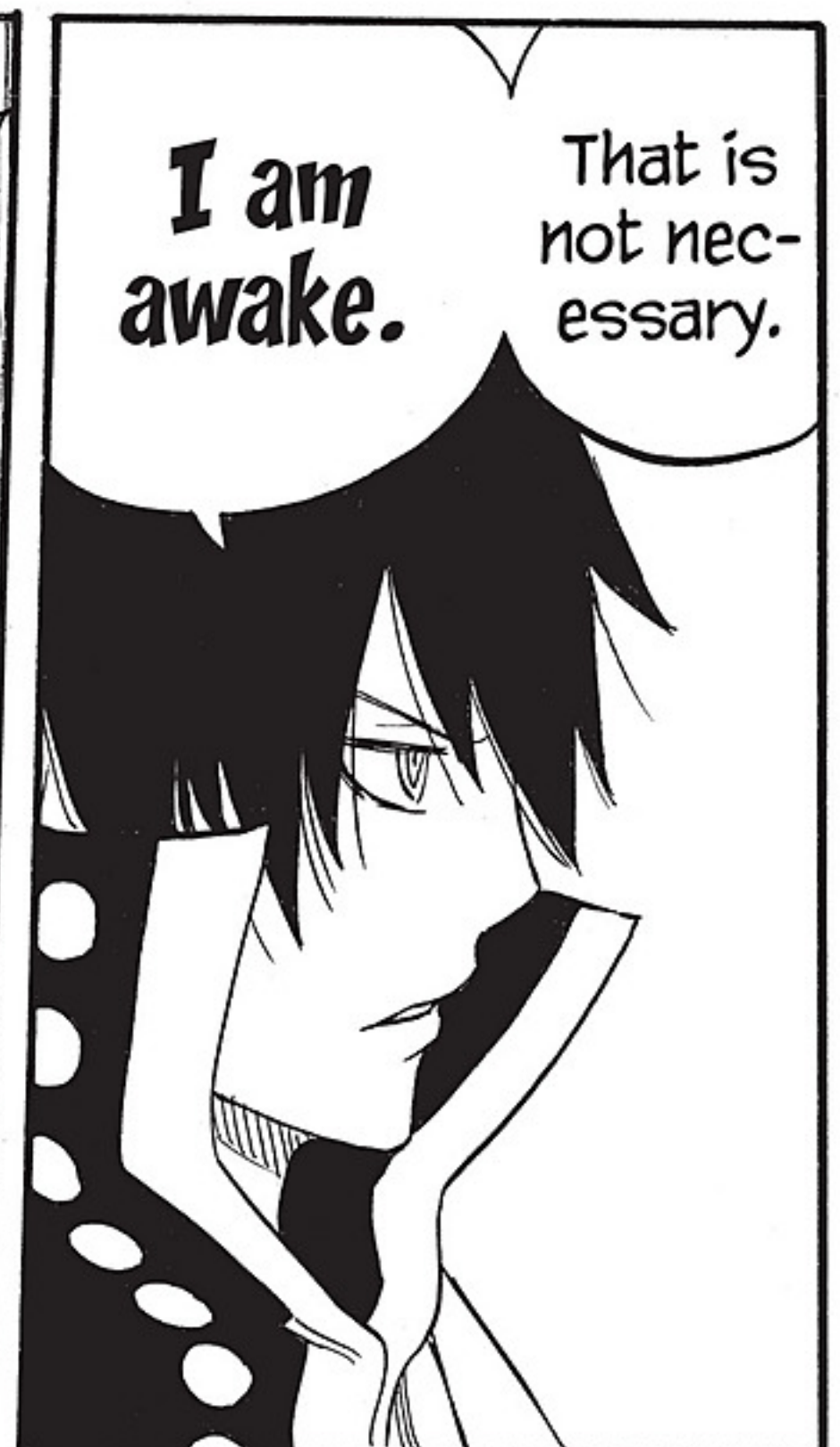
The keys!!!
Bring me
the keys!!!



I have no right to judge, but quite a few people lost their lives in your pursuit of the keys, correct?



?!
SURPRISE



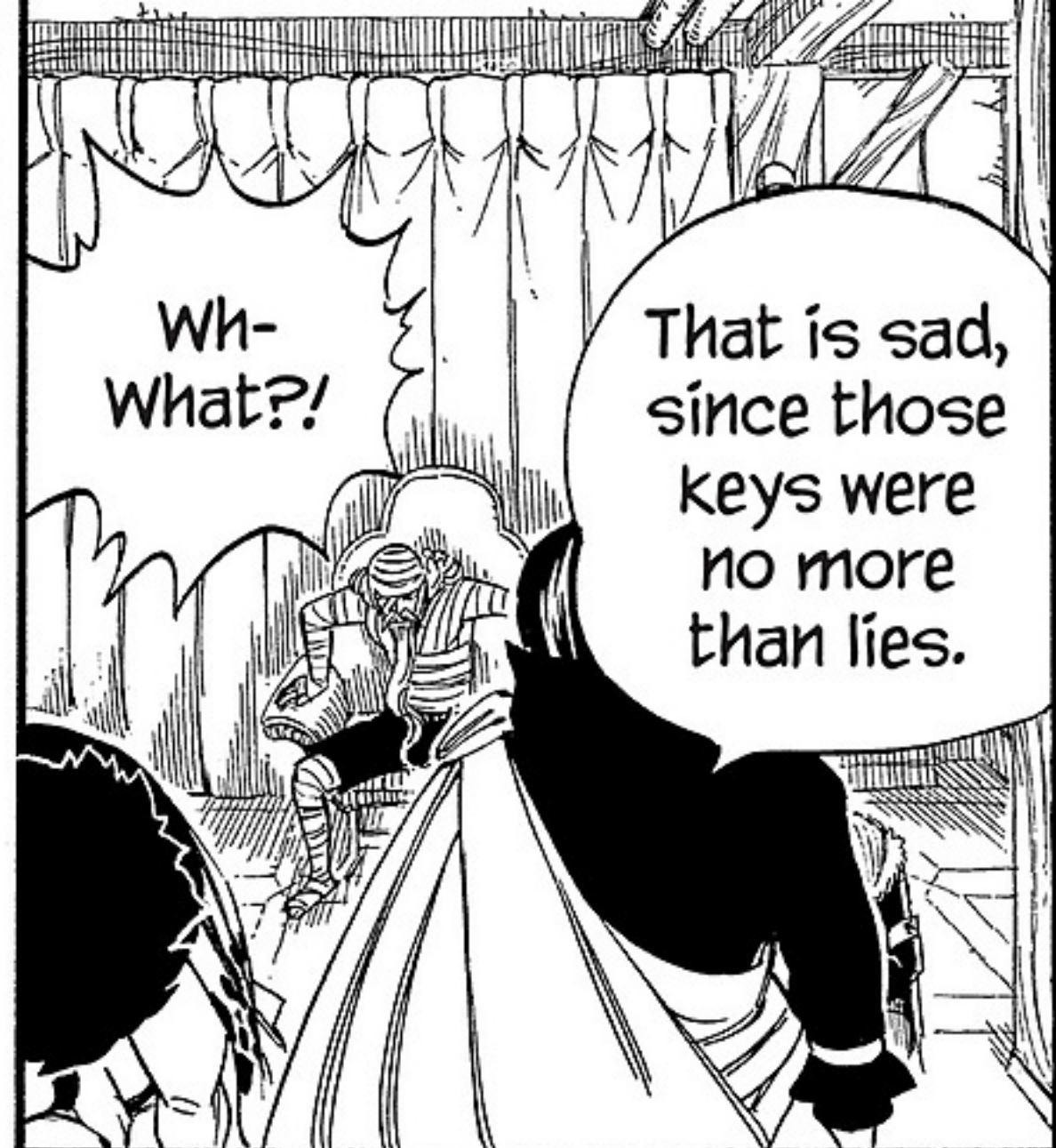
I am awake.

That is not necessary.



They were just an old fable. You thought they were real?

The "keys to Zeref's revival" were a delusion dreamed up by a small group that devoted itself to Zeref.



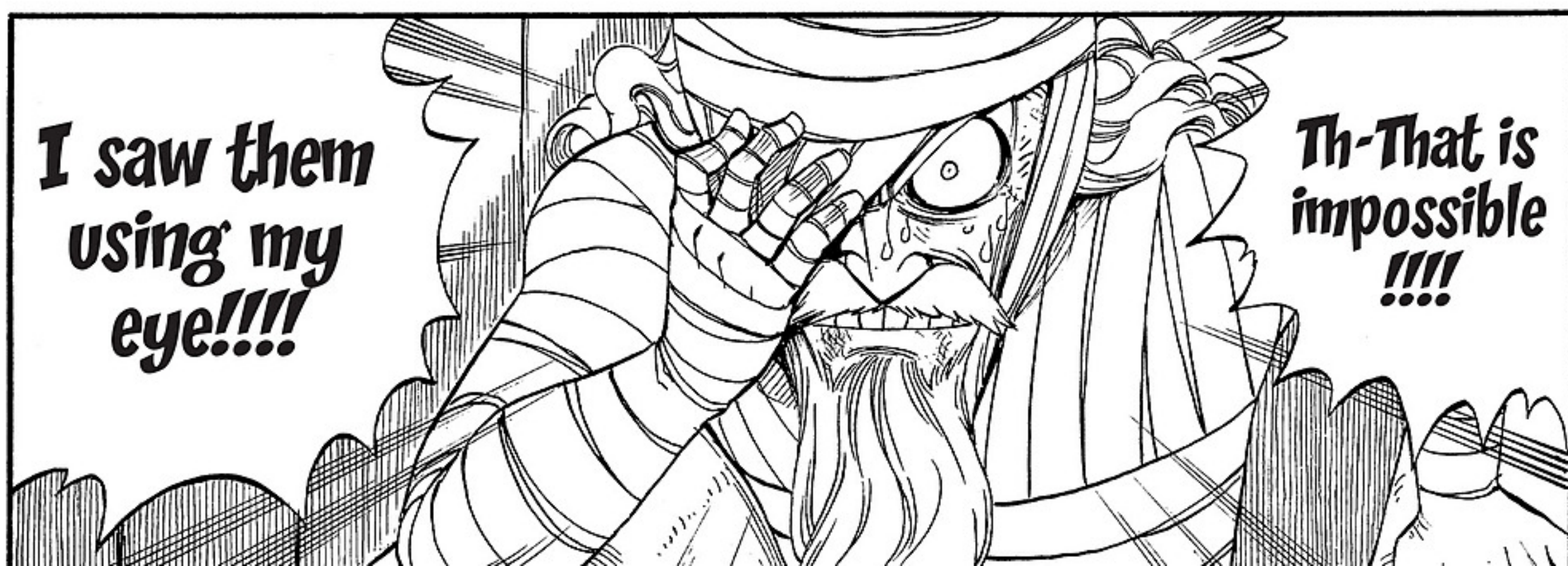
Wh-What?!

That is sad, since those keys were no more than lies.



The one you see before you is Zeref the Black Wizard.

I was never asleep in the first place.



I saw them using my eye!!!!

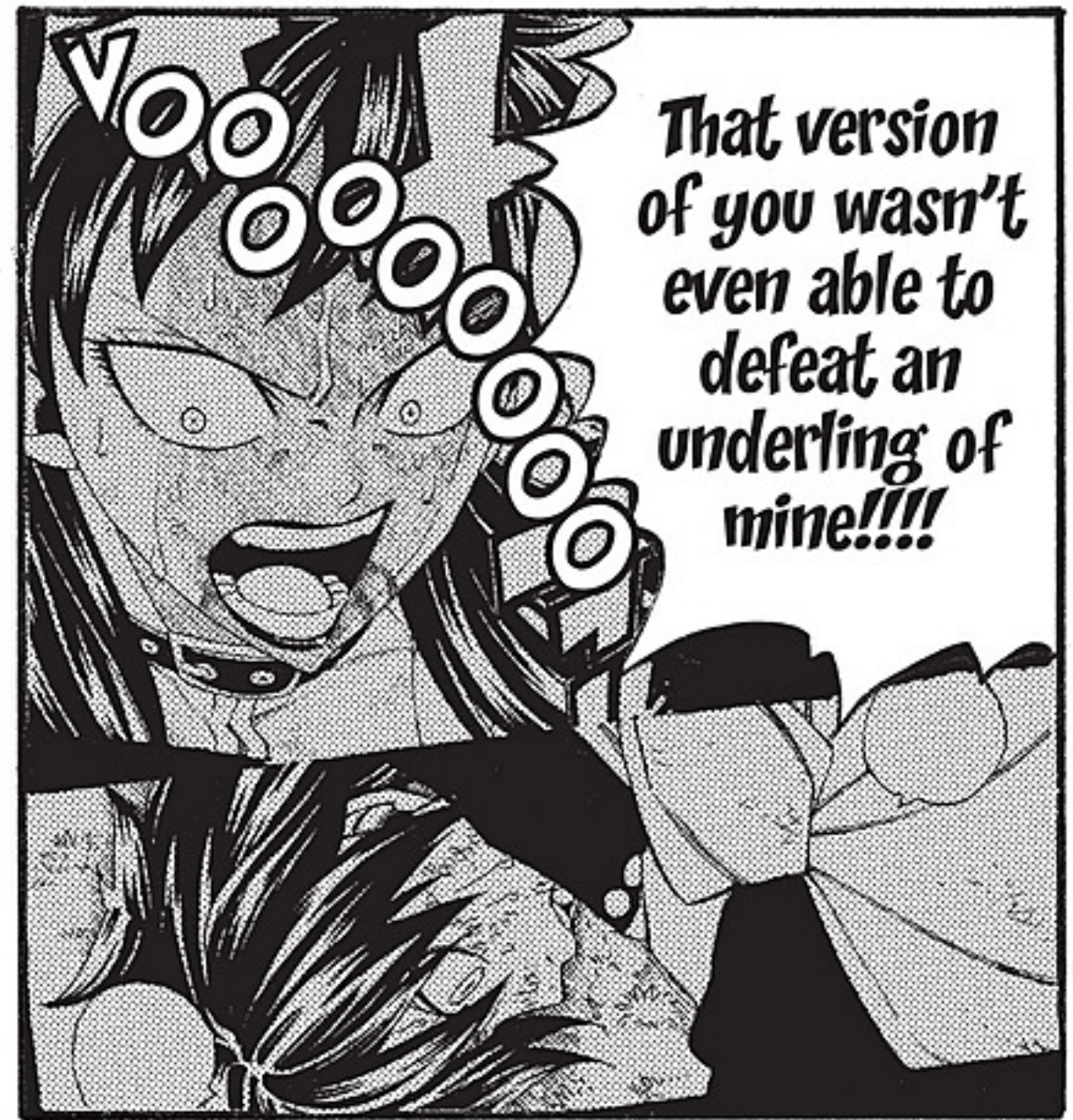
Th-That is impossible!!!!



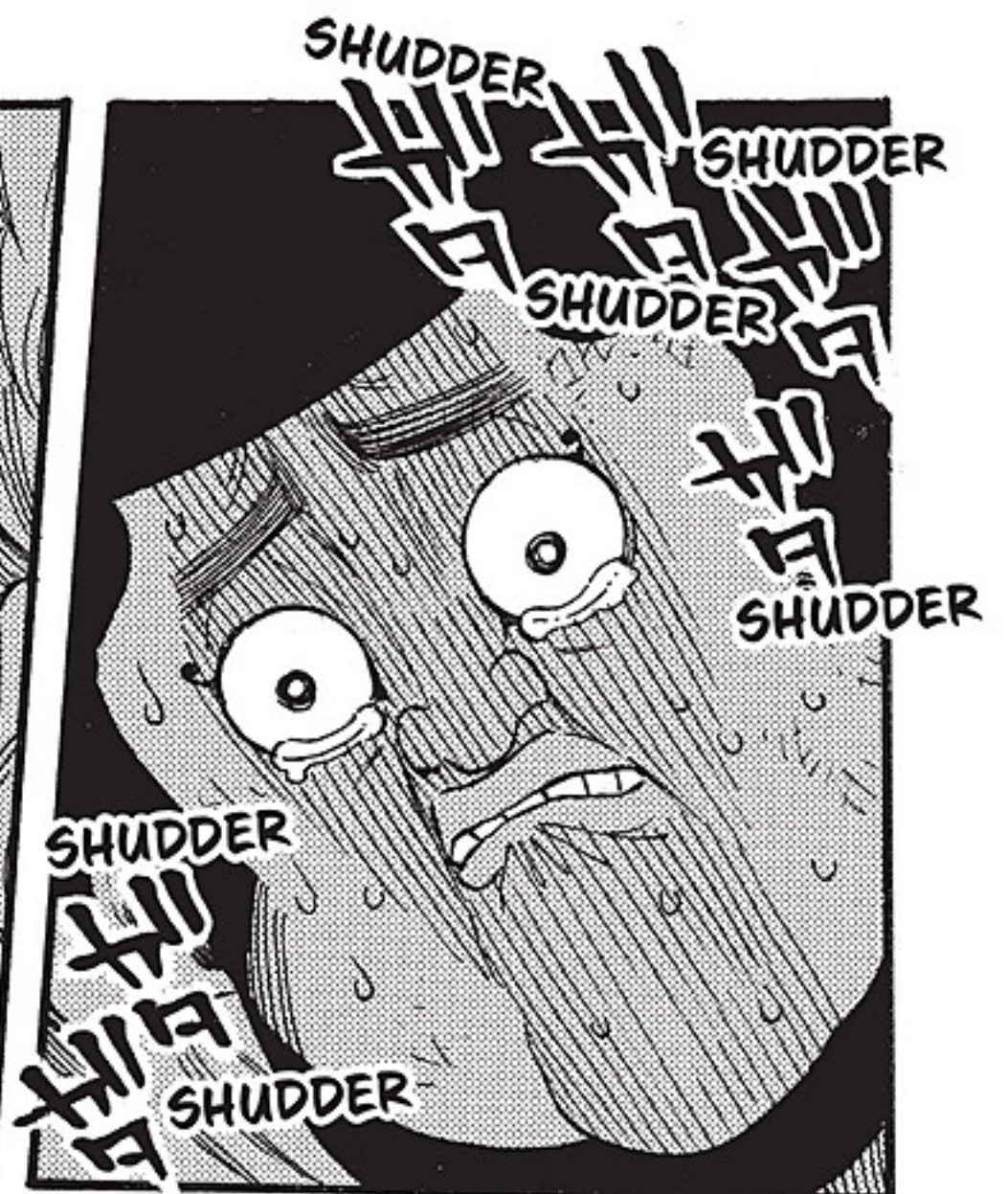
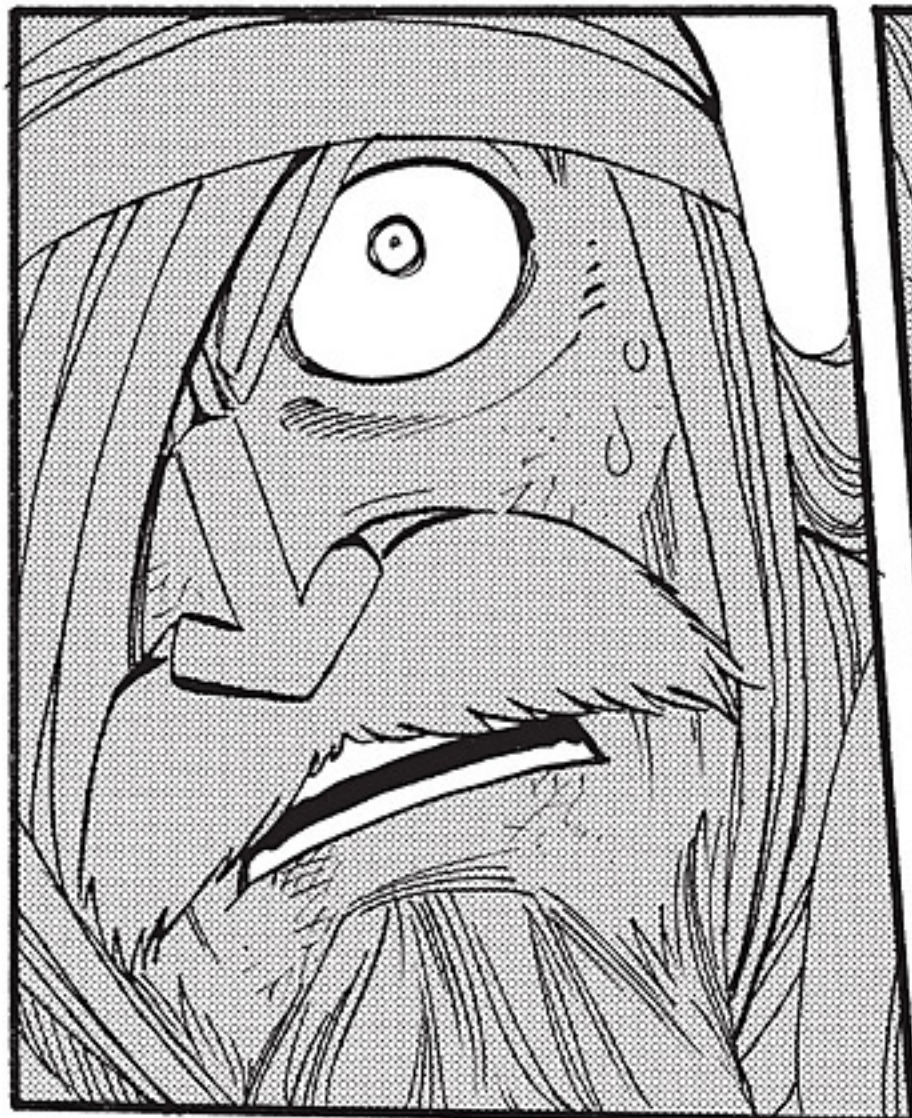
...at
that
time.



If you know
that, then it
will be easier
to explain.
That *was* my
true power...



That version
of you wasn't
even able to
defeat an
underling of
mine!!!!



SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER



...there
was one
day that
taught me
the value
of life.

However
...

...over
four hundred
years, I have seen
countless battles...
and countless
deaths.

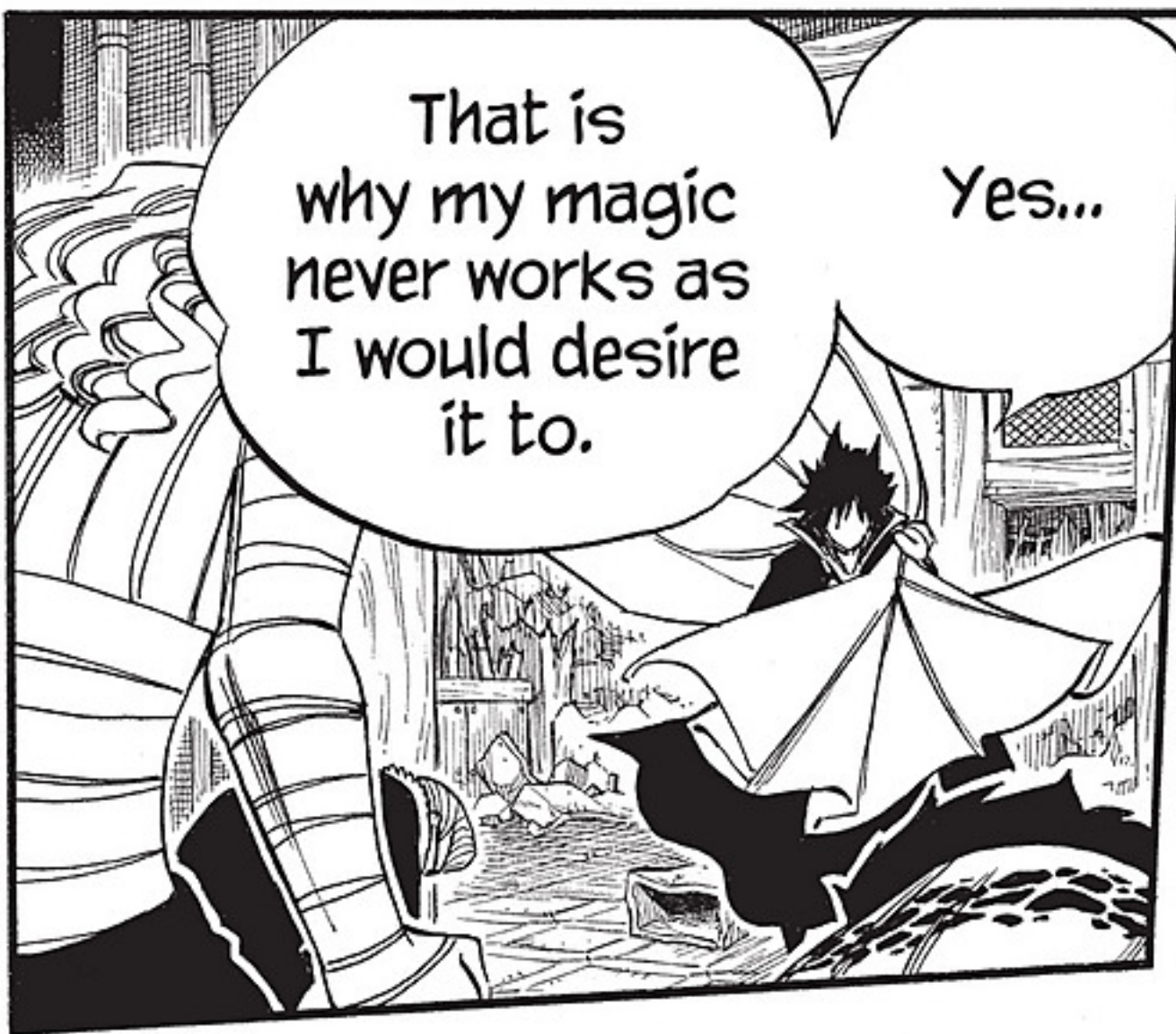
You
see...

WHOOOOOSH



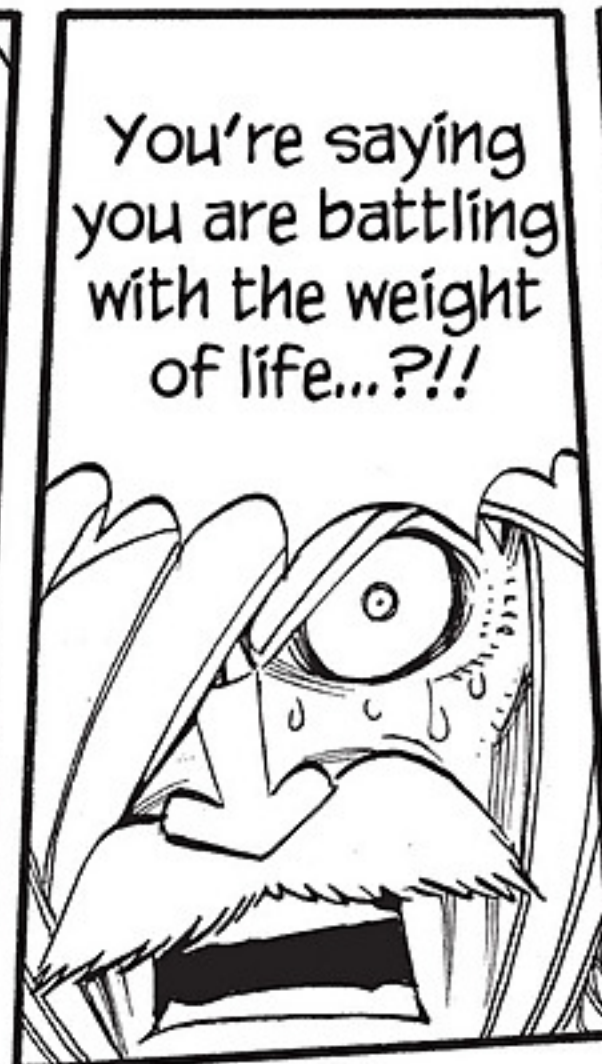
To
stop it from
stealing souls,
I must forget
the weight of a
human life.

That was
when it began.
My body is
cursed. The more
precious I feel
human life is, the
more souls it
steals.



That is
why my magic
never works as
I would desire
it to.

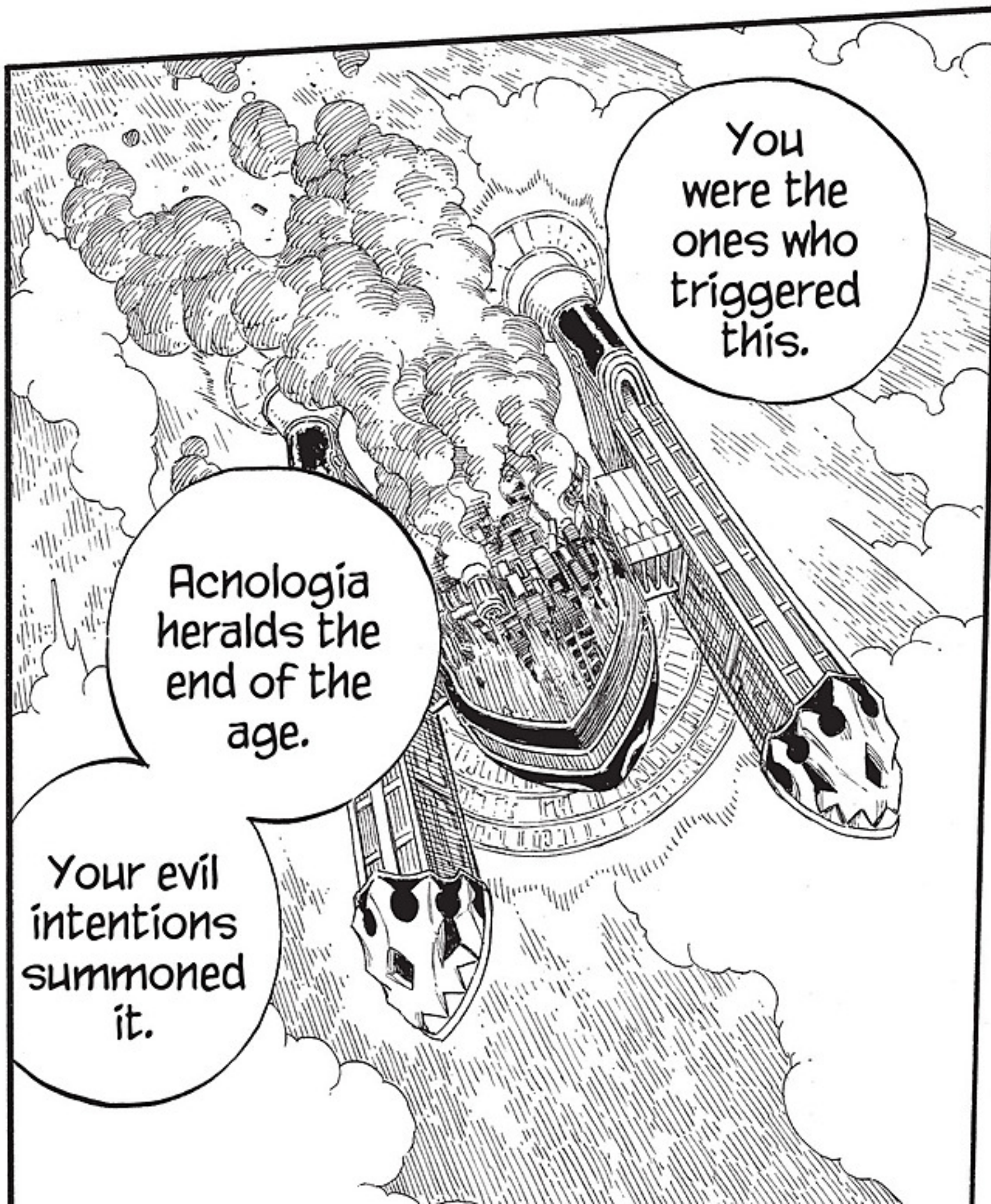
Yes...



You're saying
you are battling
with the weight
of life...?!!



Even for
me, it is
heart-
rending.



You
were the
ones who
triggered
this.

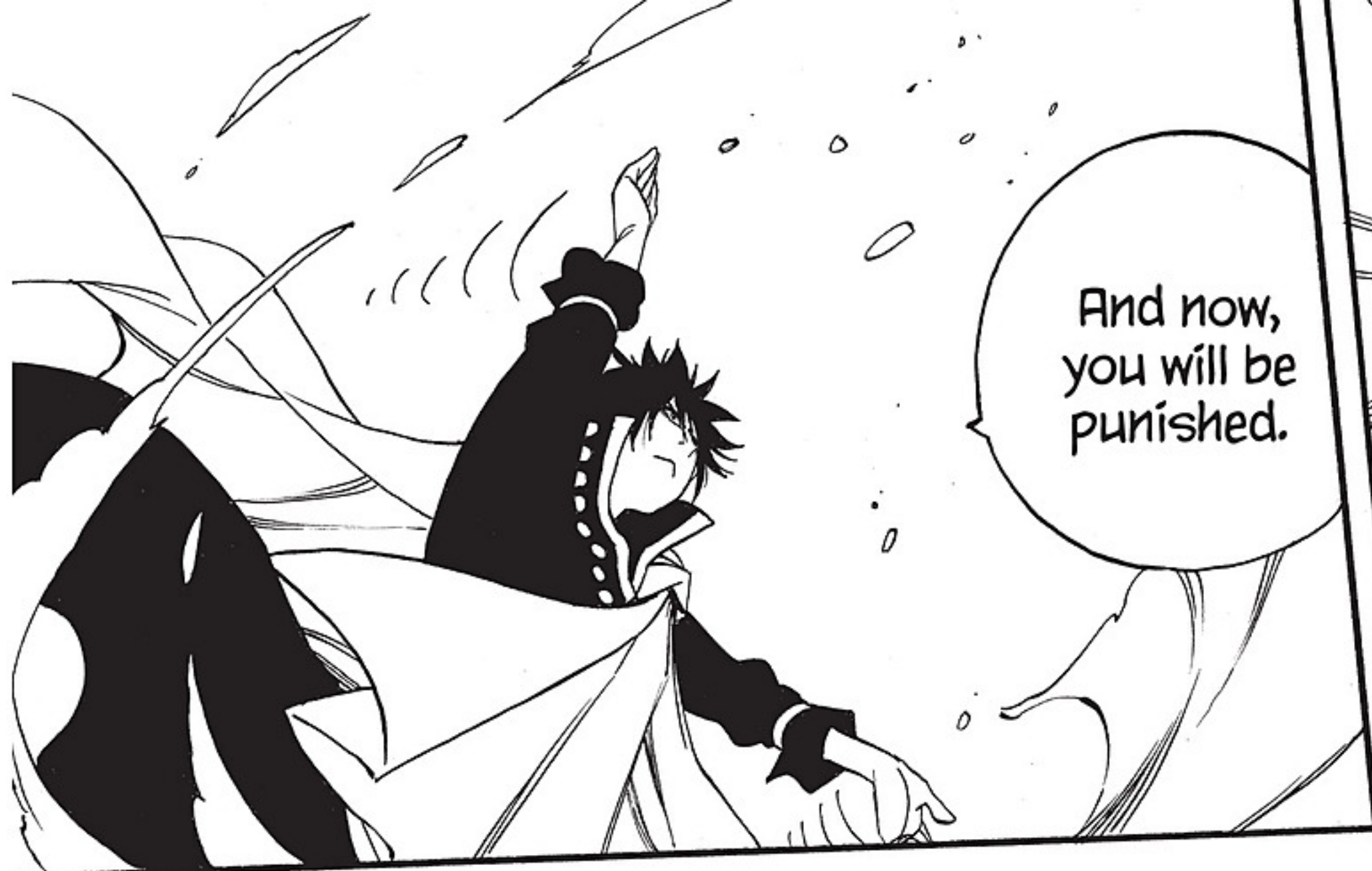
Achologia
heralds the
end of the
age.

Your evil
intentions
summoned
it.



But if I
actually *forgot*
the weight of
life, it would be
different.





And now,
you will be
punished.



Just what
are you
talking
about
...?!!

Achno-
logia
?!!



There's so
much I
still want
to ask
you!

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

W-Wait
!!!!

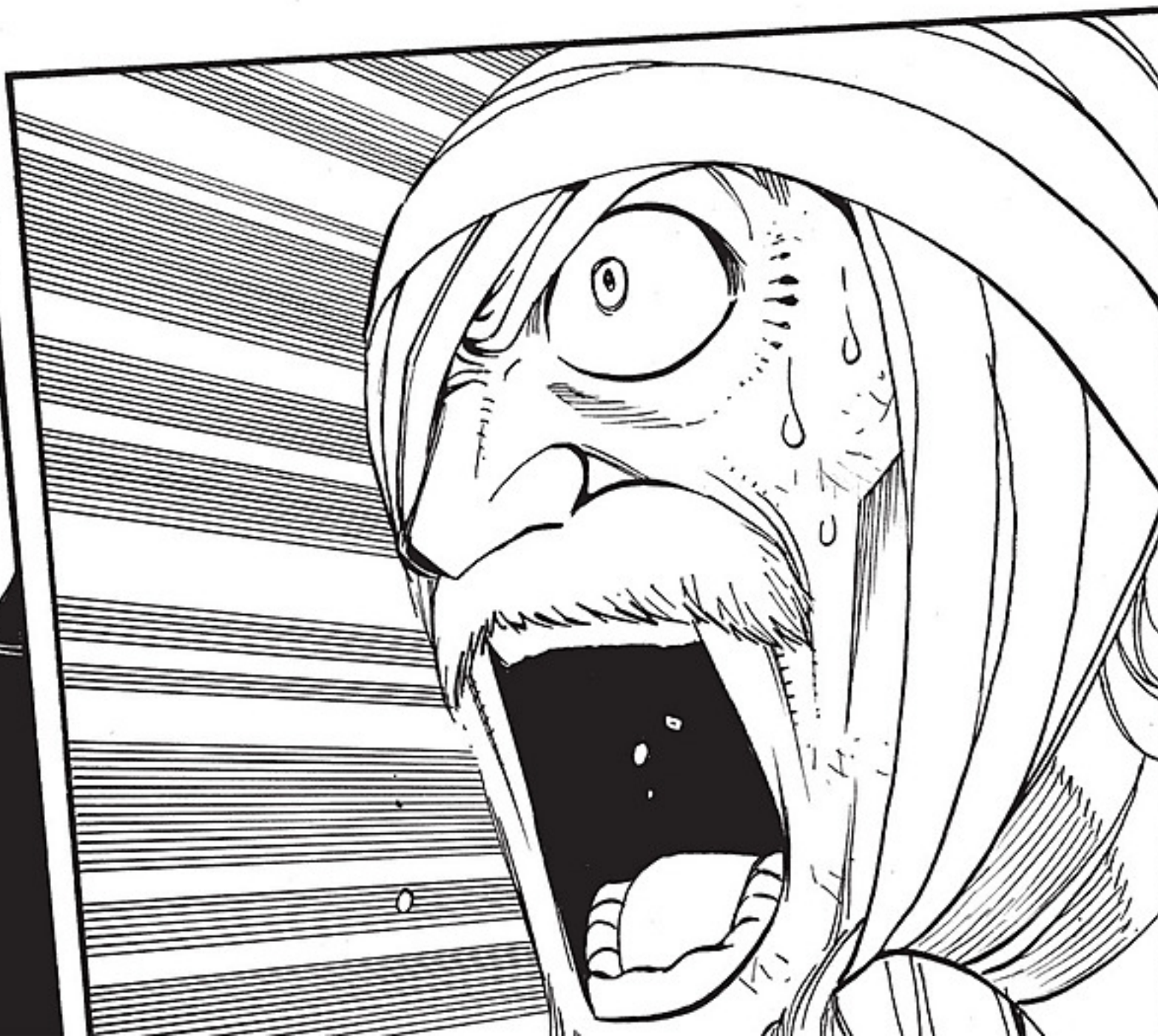


And
second...

First,
for calling
Achnologia.

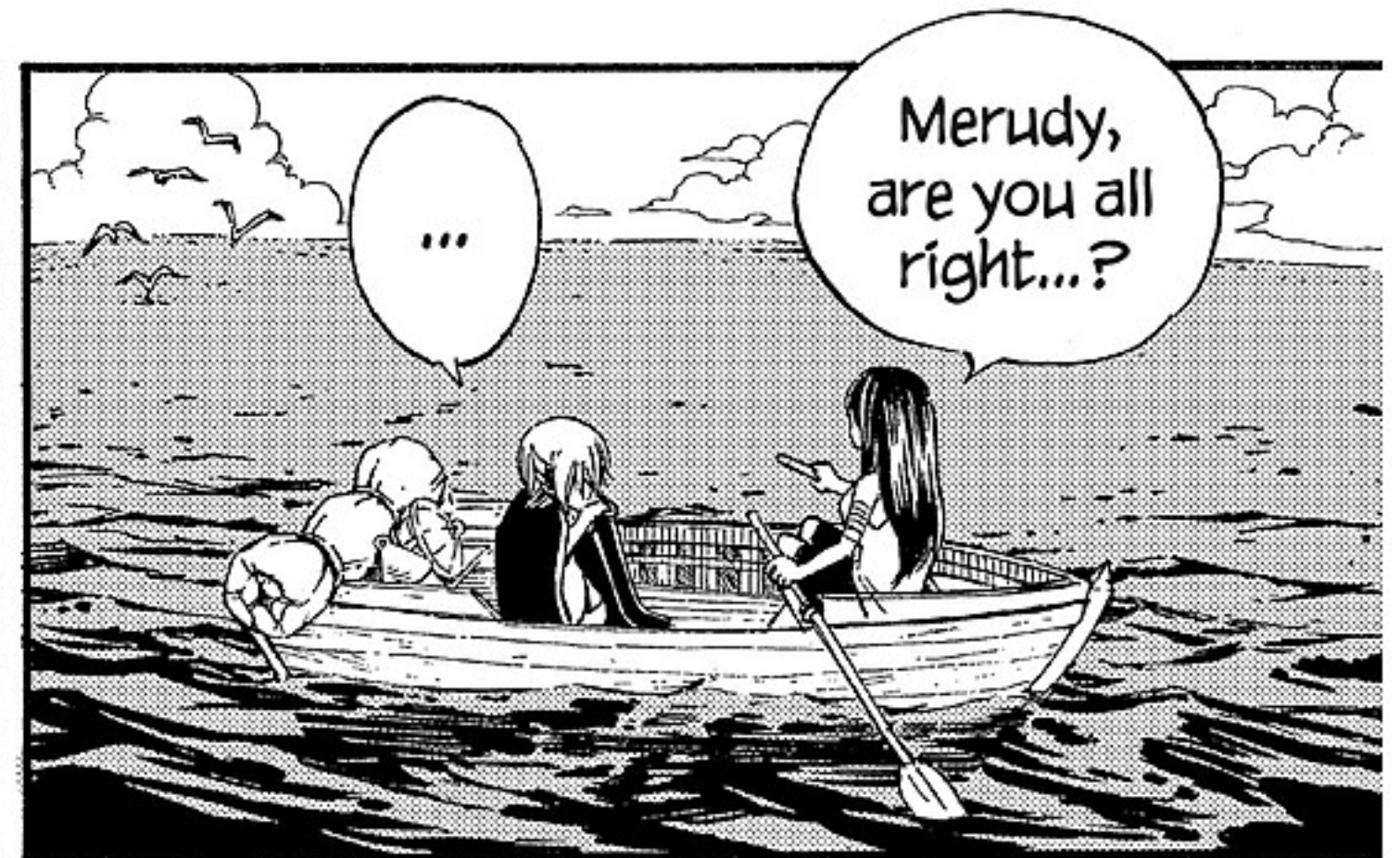
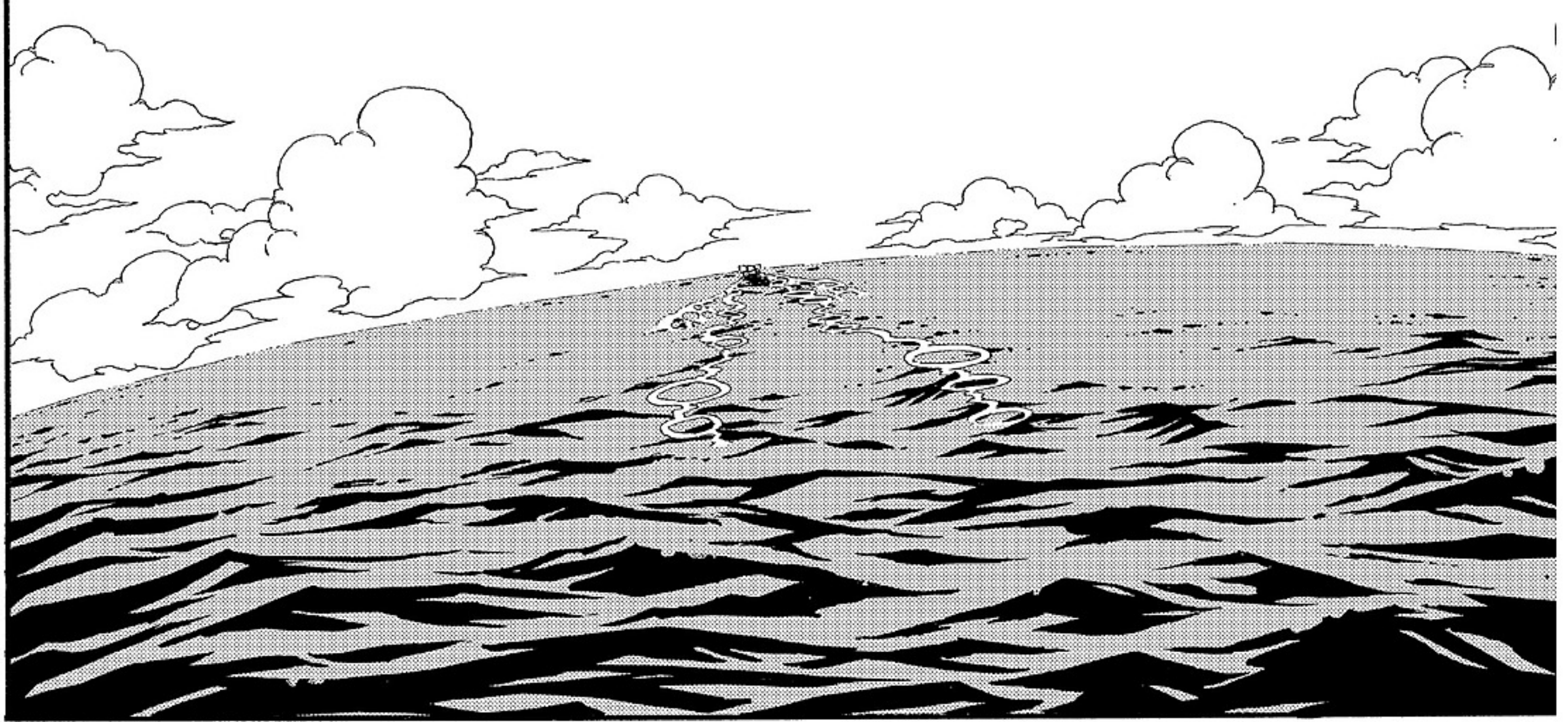


...for
making me
forget the
weight of
life!





REPENT.

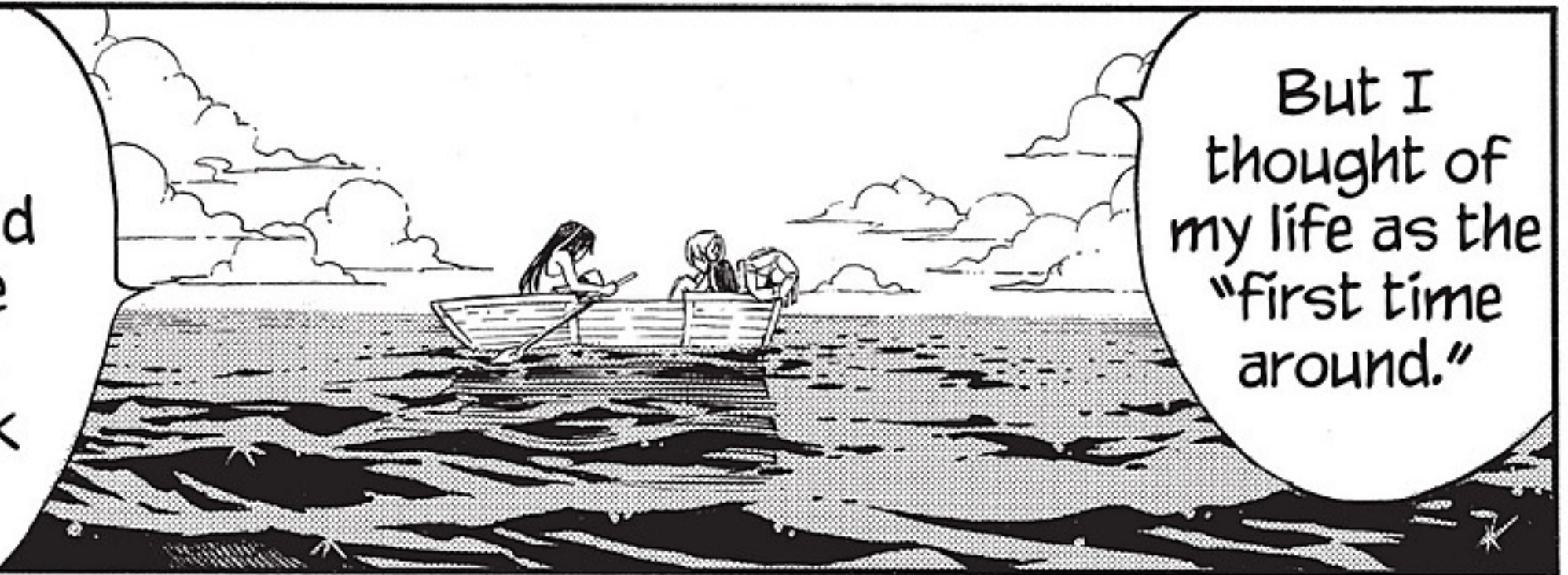


I knew
that I
would have
to tell you
someday...



Yes.

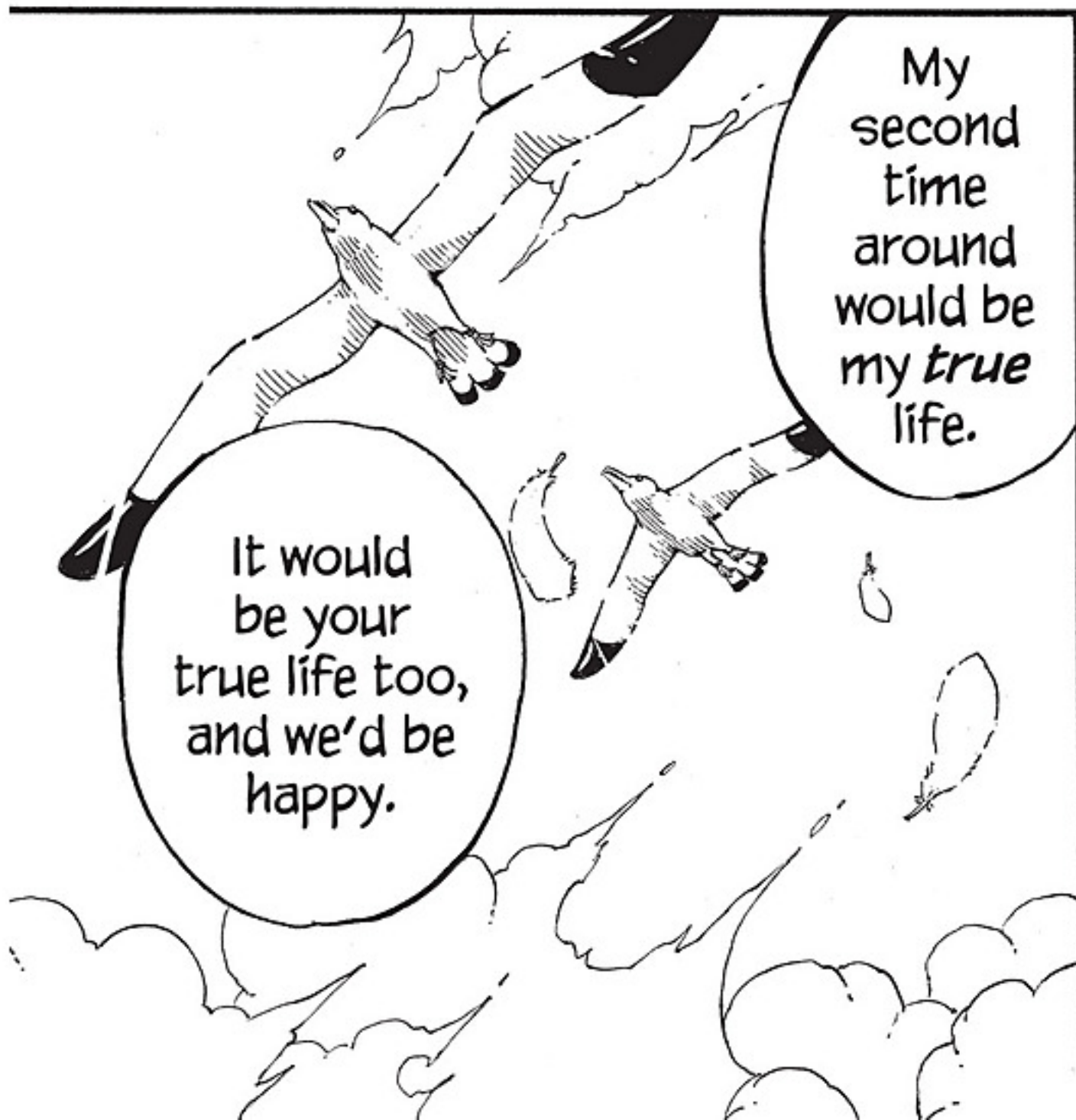
And when the
Great Magic
World arrived and
my Arc of Time
was perfected,
I could go back
again.



But I
thought of
my life as the
"first time
around."

My
second
time
around
would be
my *true*
life.

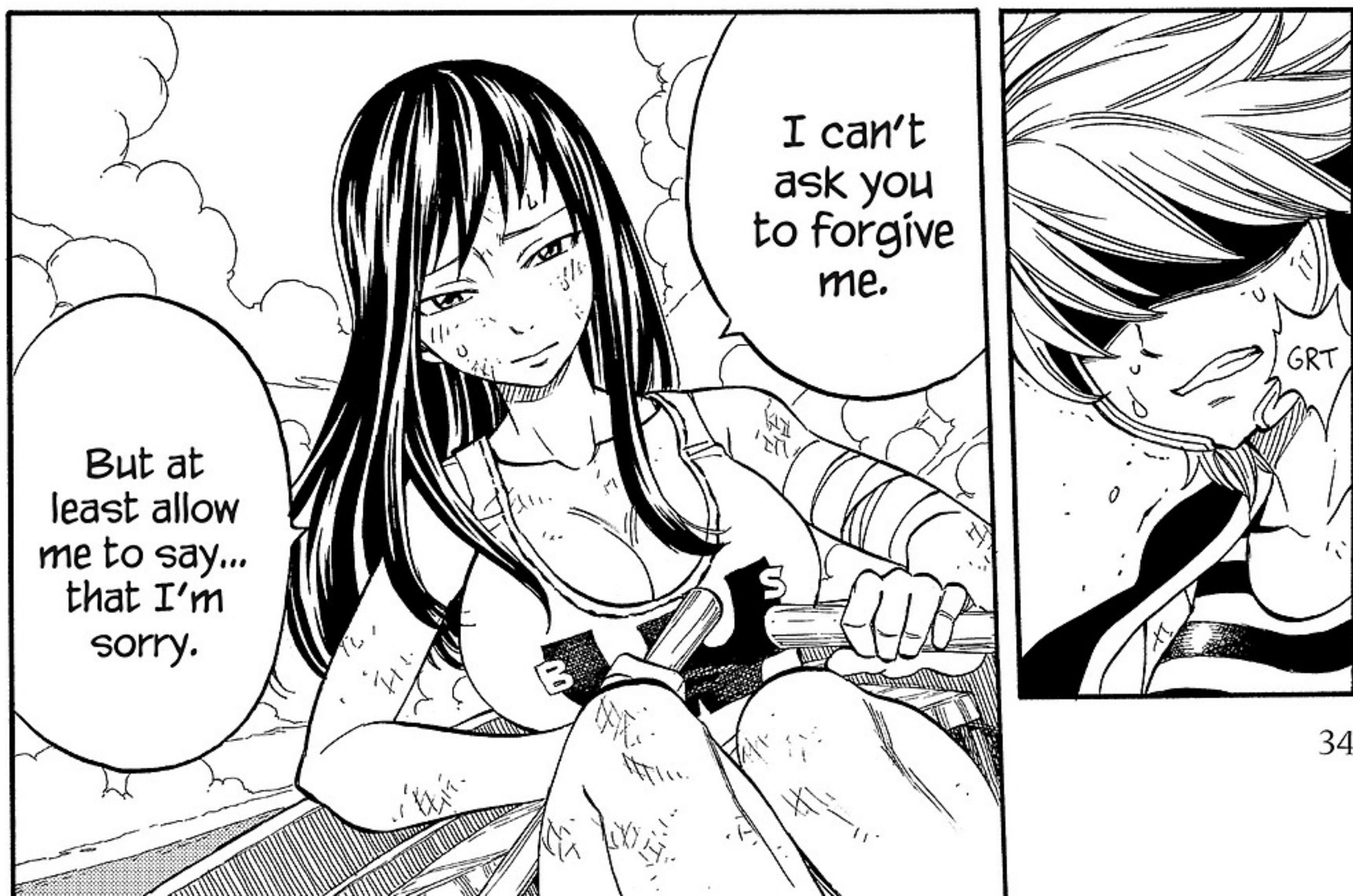
It would
be your
true life too,
and we'd be
happy.

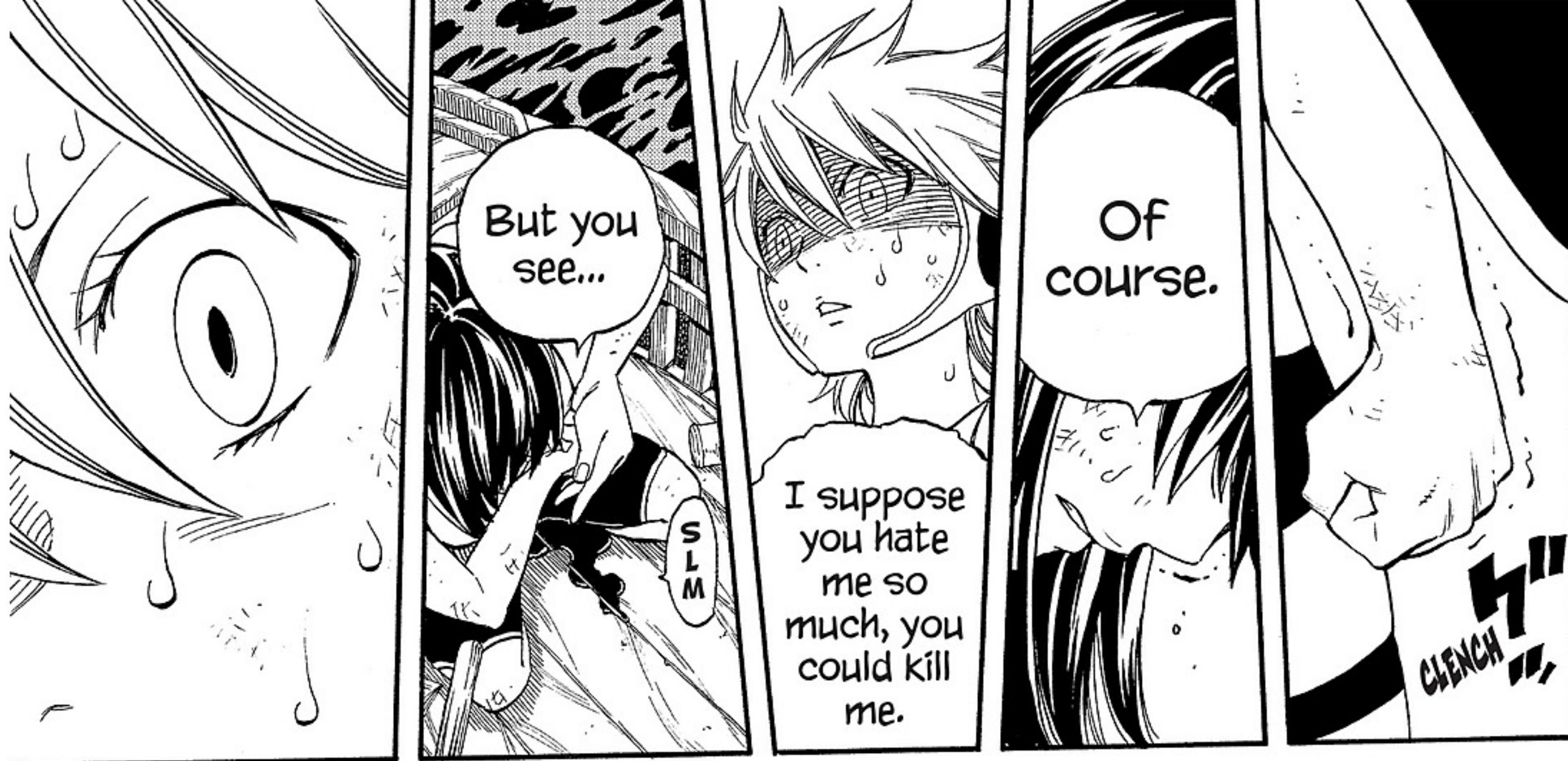


So no
matter
how cruel I
acted... No
matter how
inhuman I
became...

I believed
I could
correct all
the mistakes
I'd made the
first time
around.

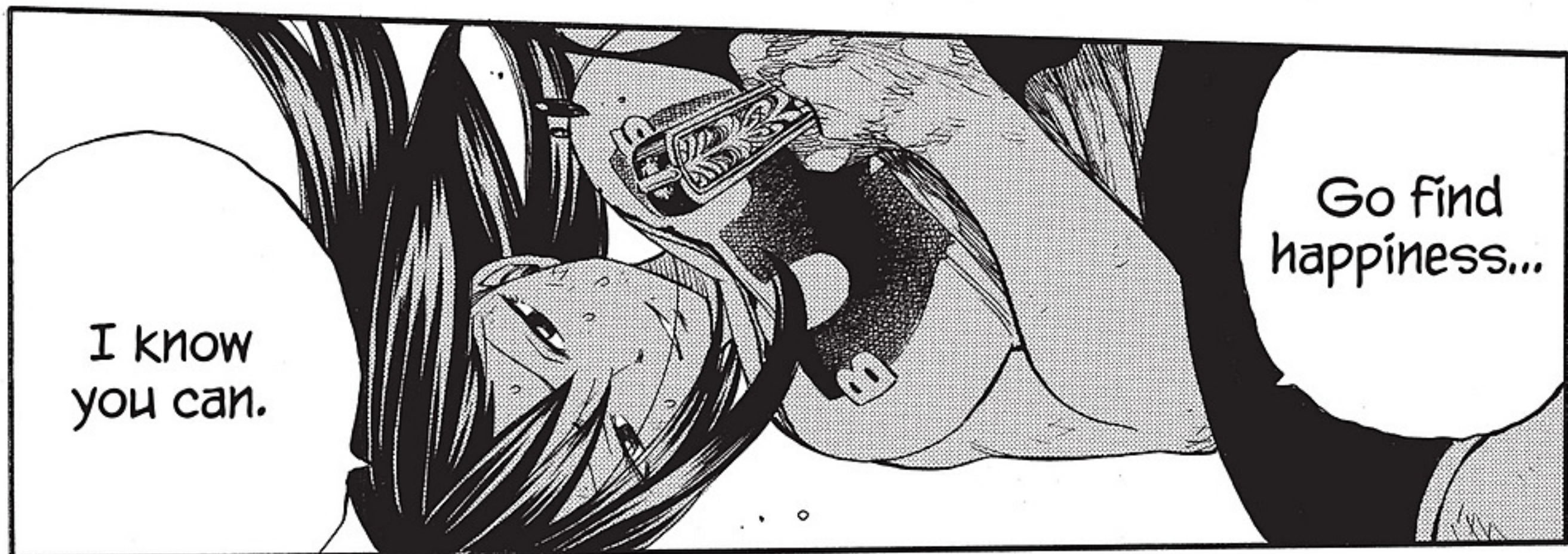
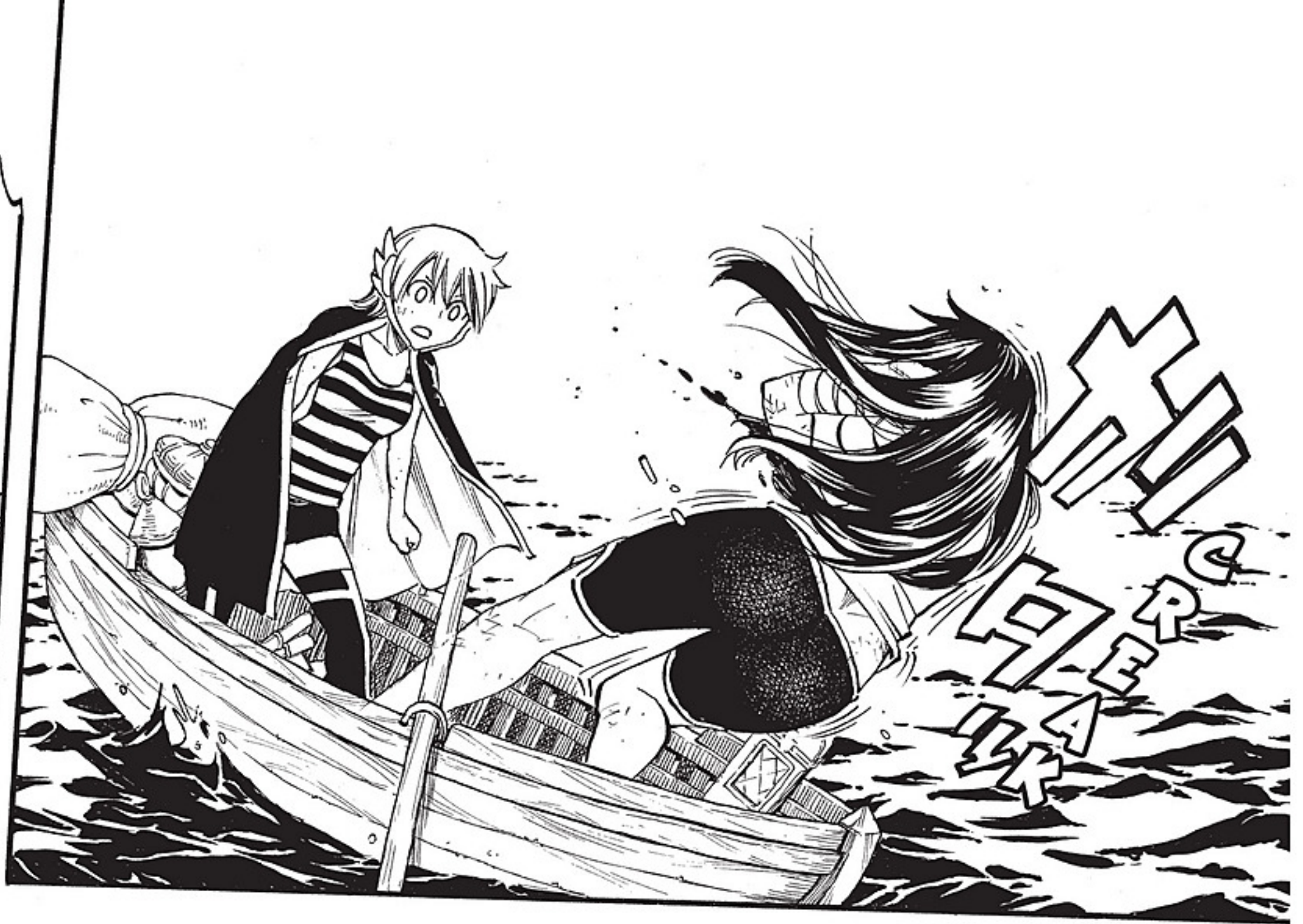








Ultear
!!!



I know
you can.

Go find
happiness...



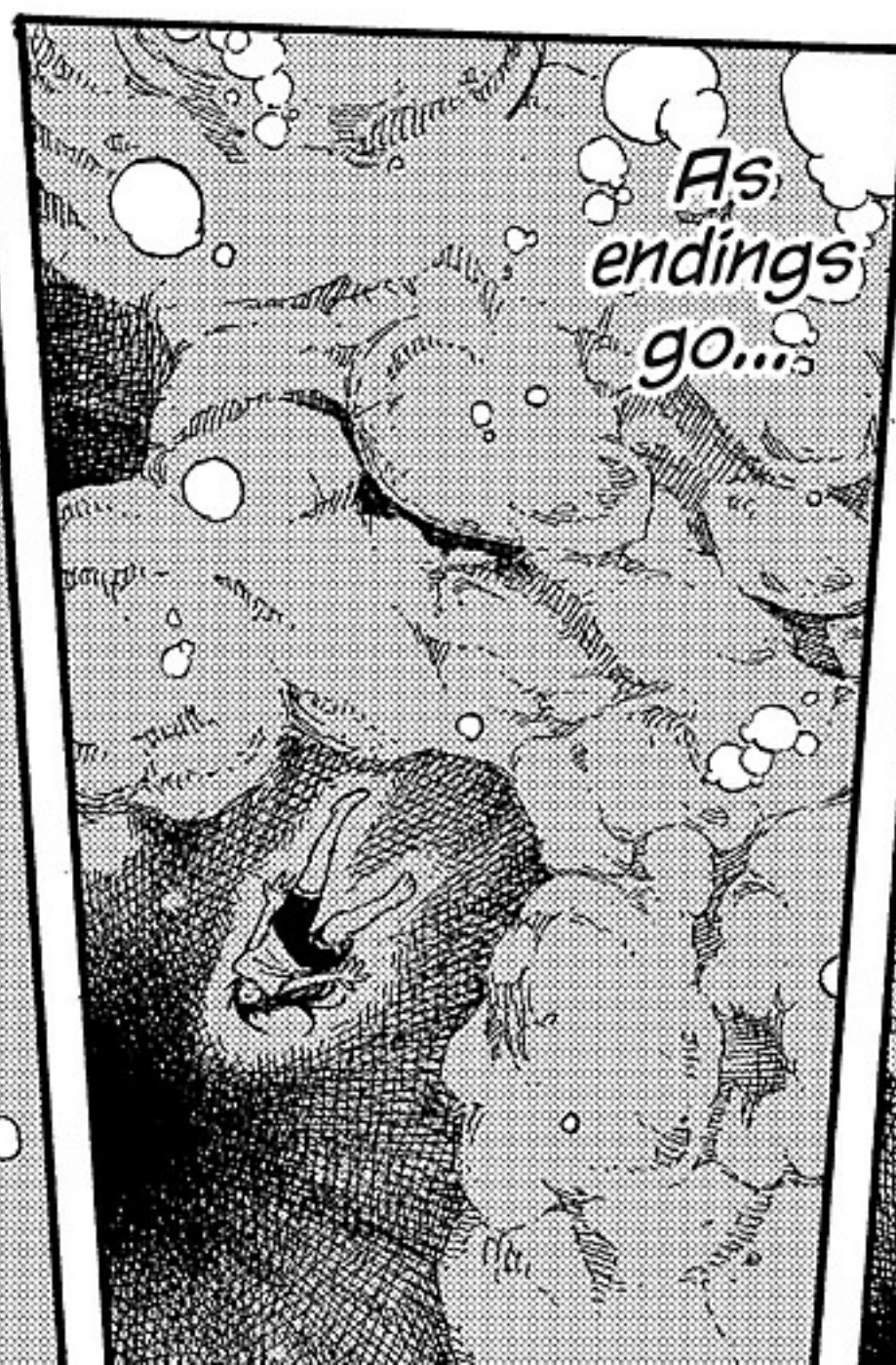
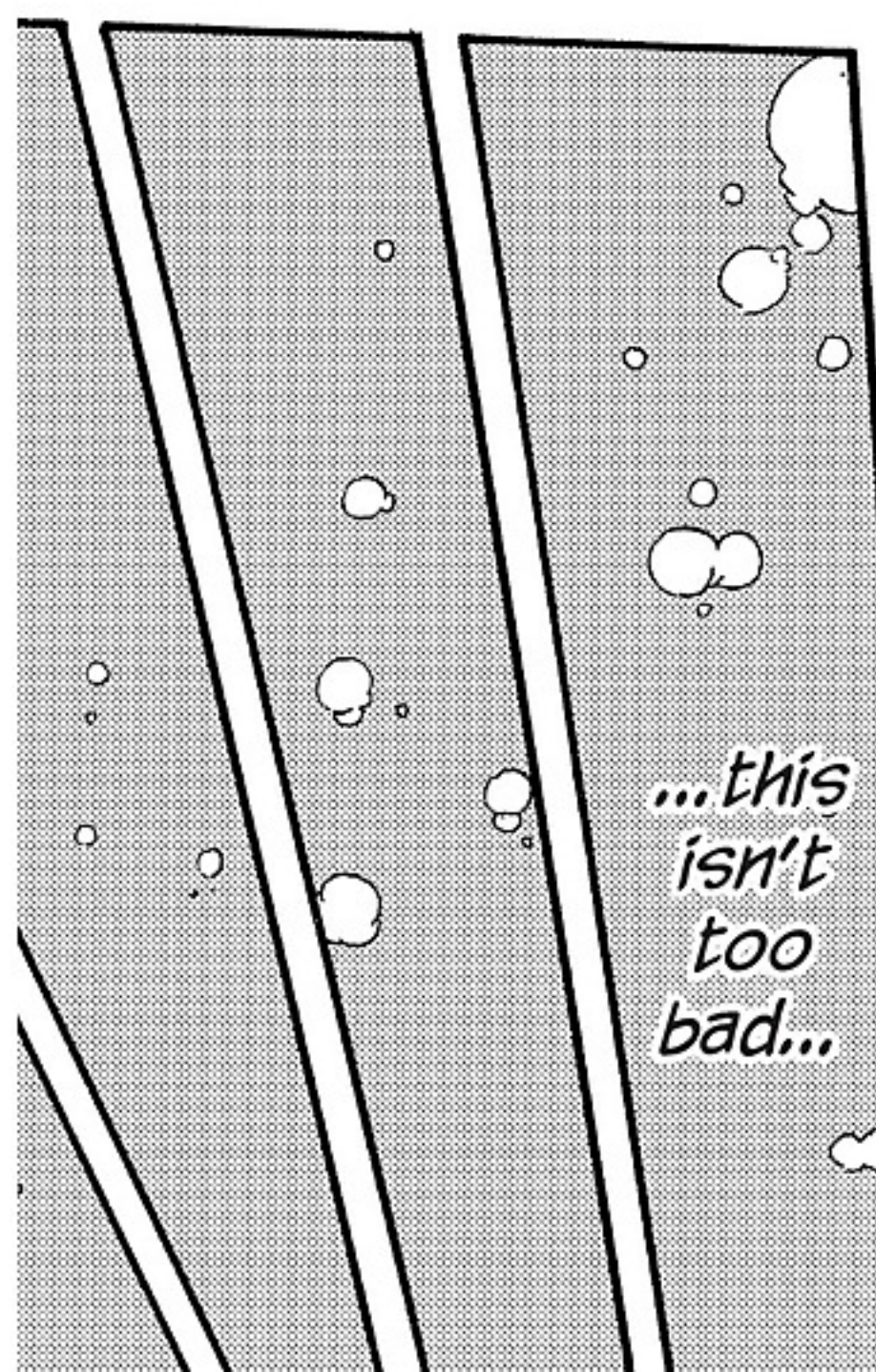
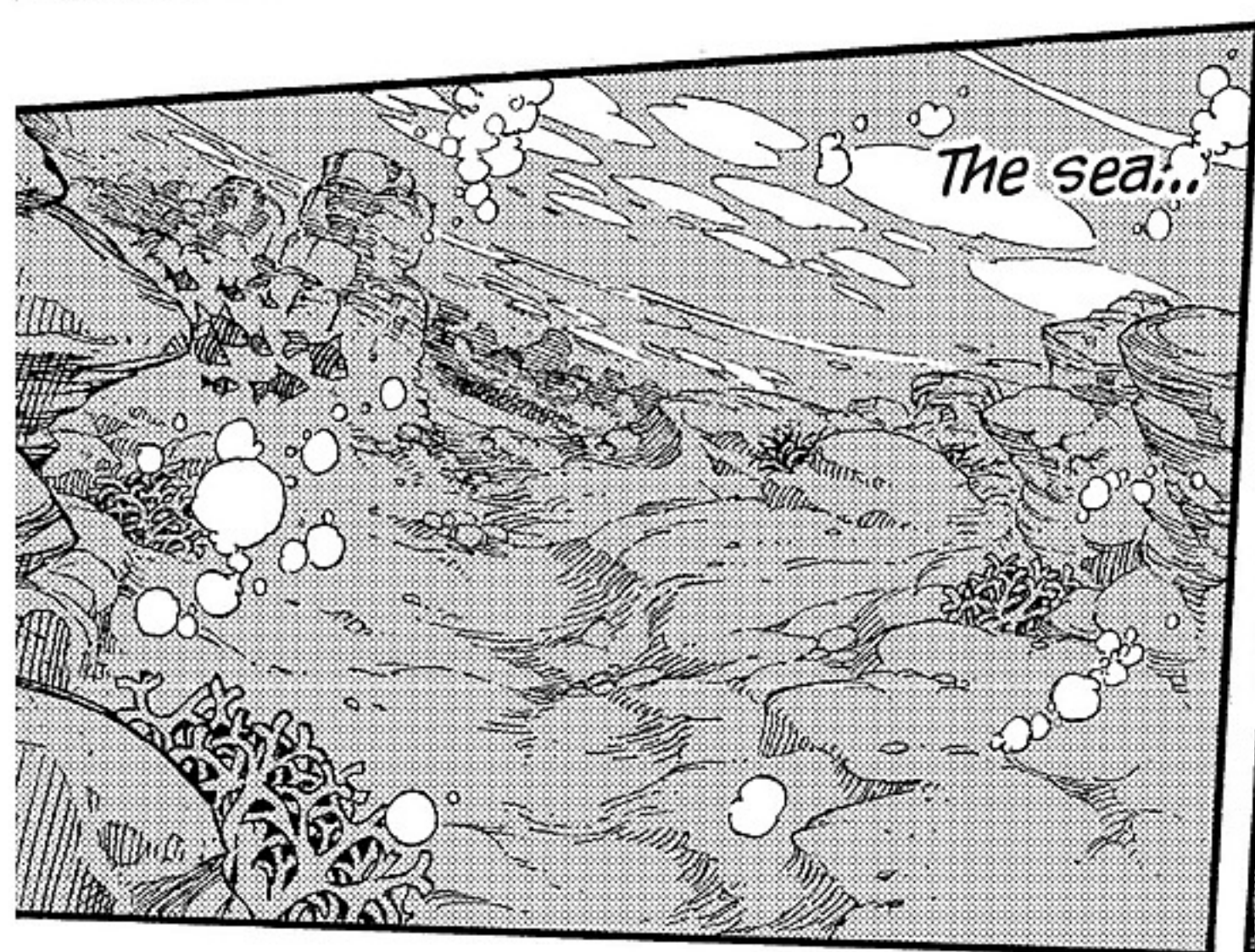
SPLASH
!!

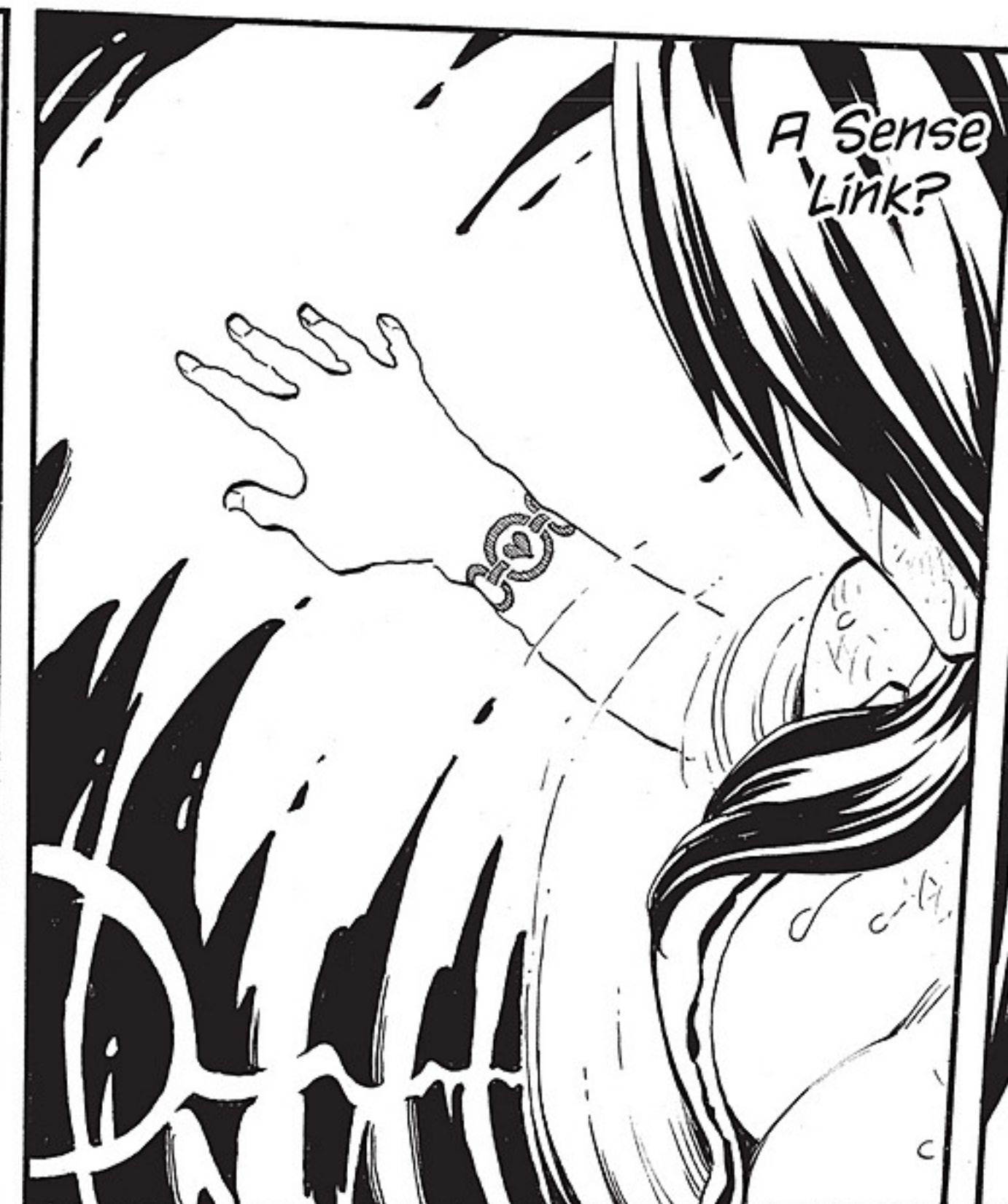
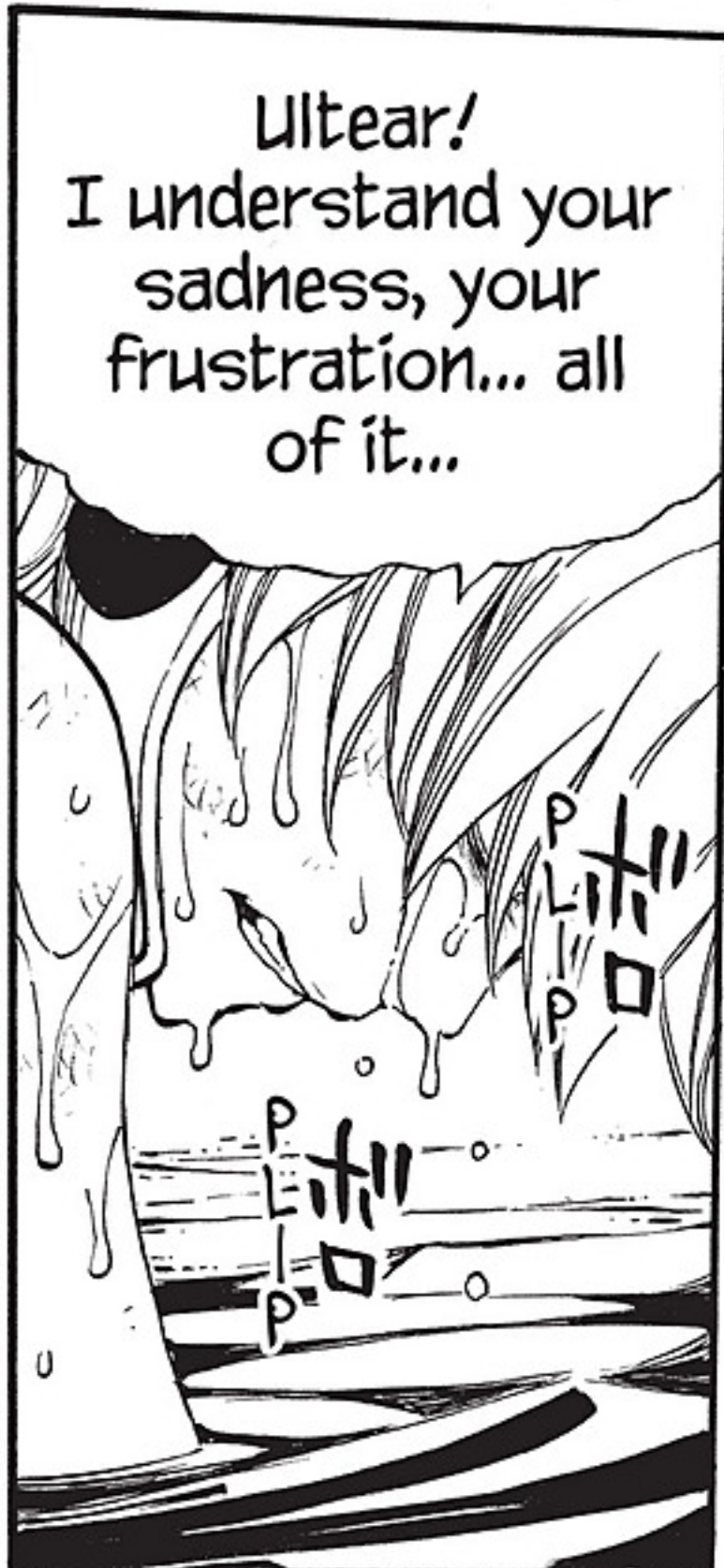
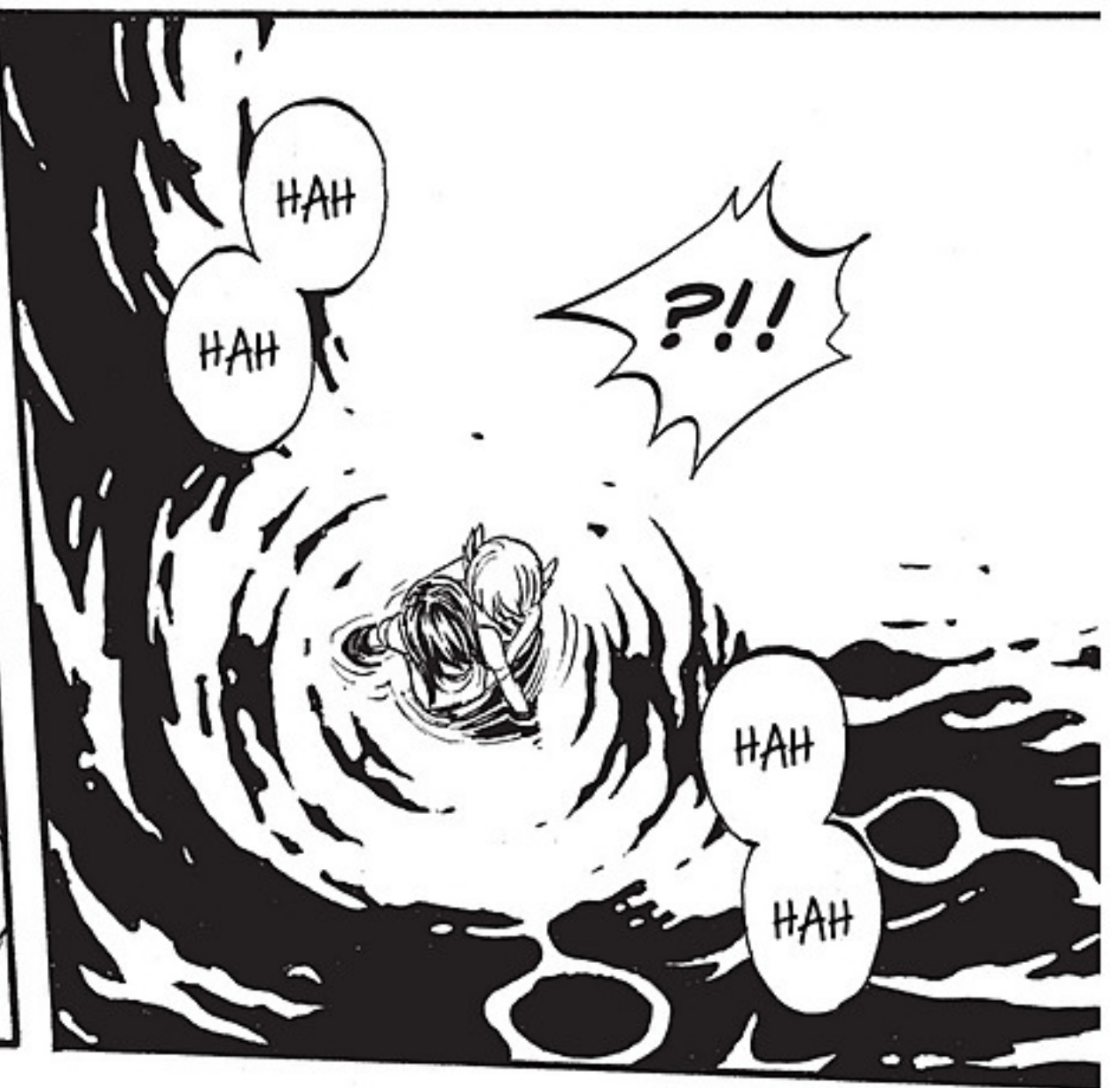


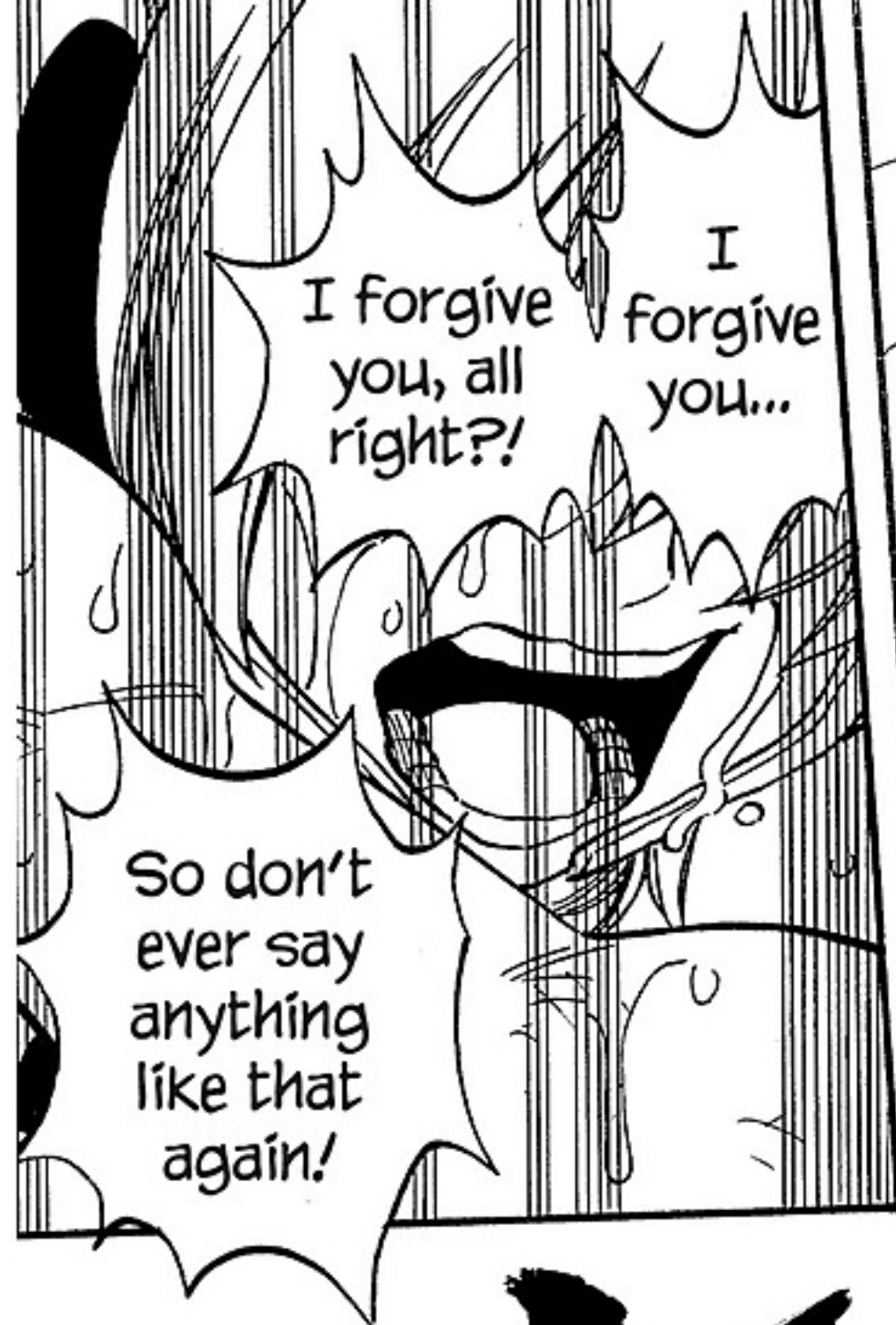
Merudy
...



I love
you.



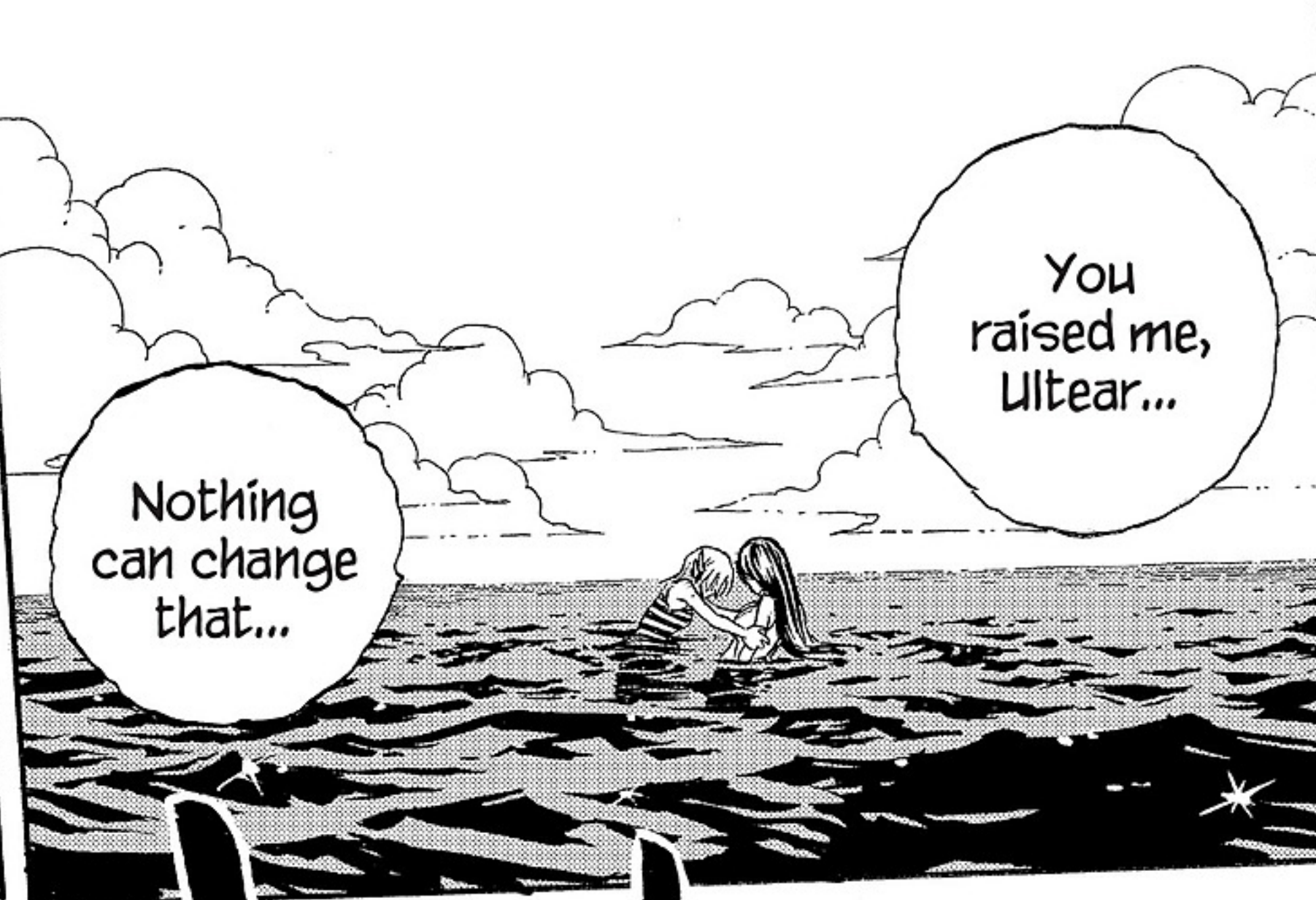




I forgive
you, all
right?!

I
forgive
you...

So don't
ever say
anything
like that
again!



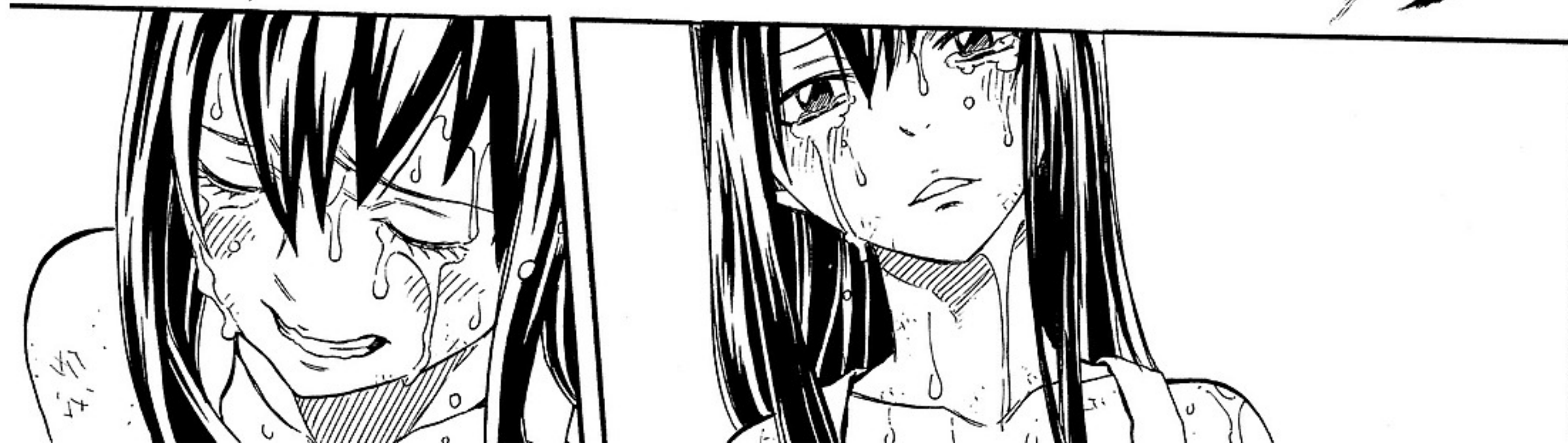
Nothing
can change
that...

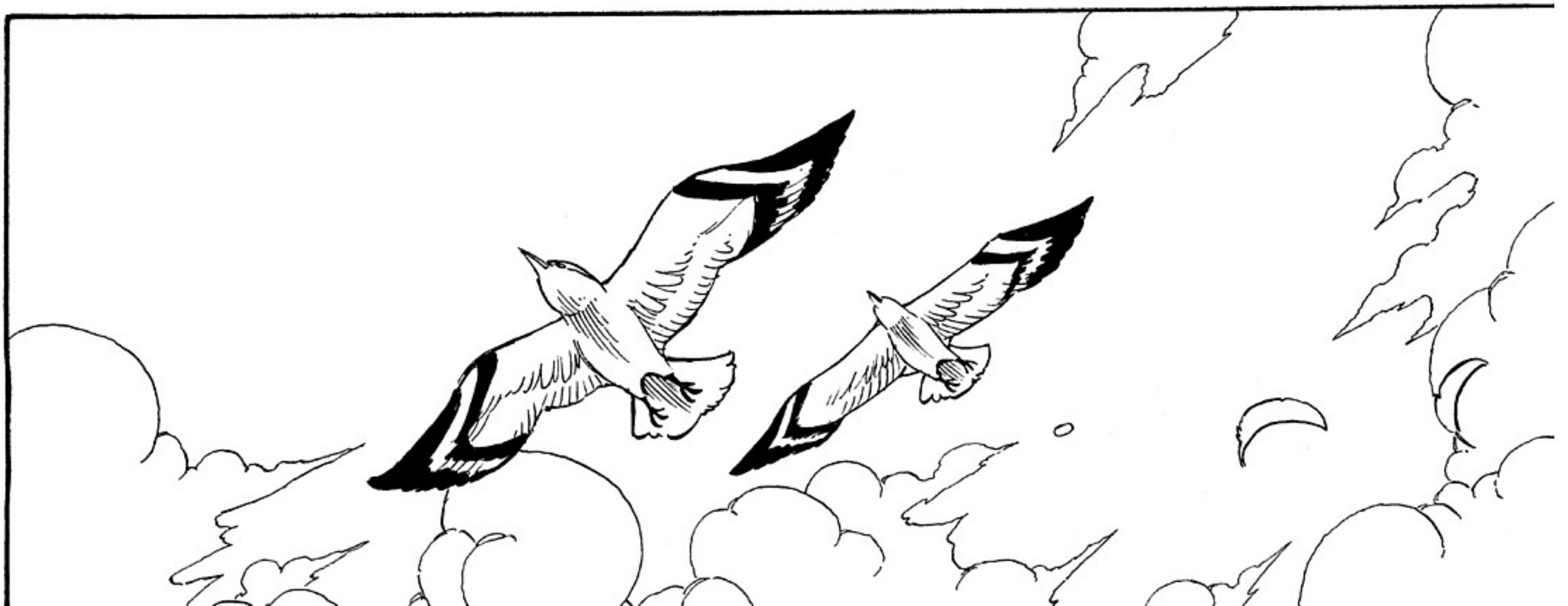
You
raised me,
Ultear...

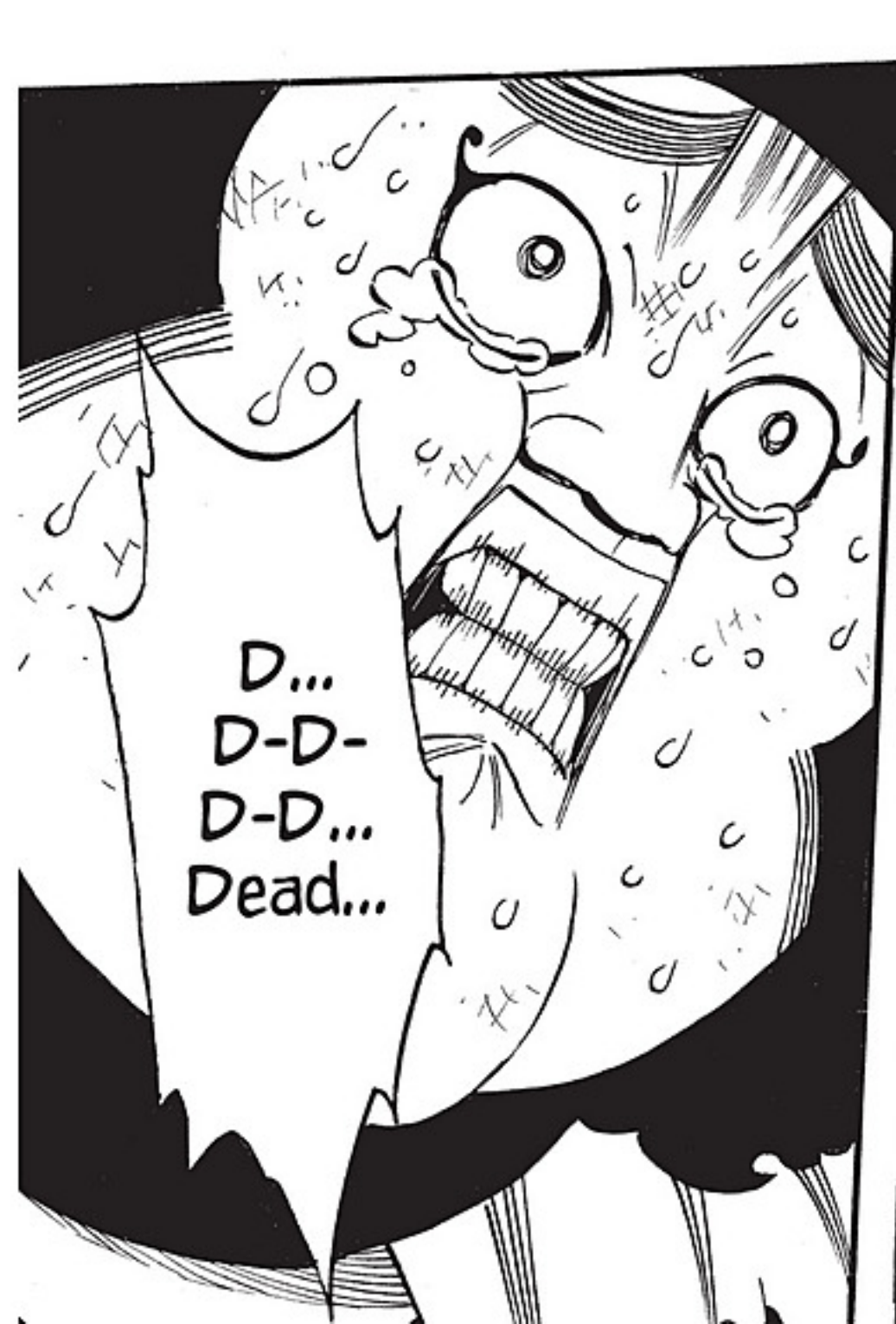
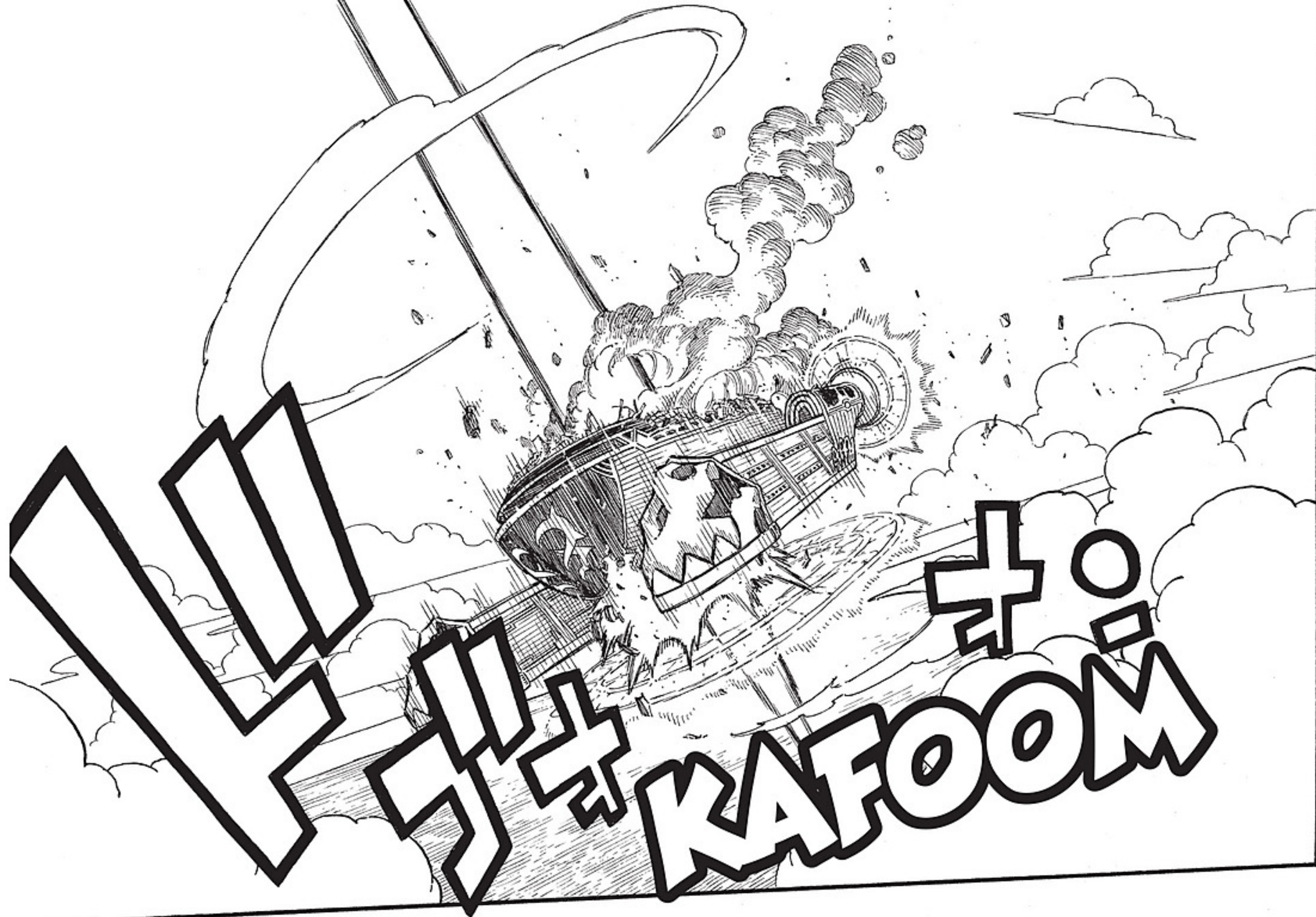


Please,
don't
leave me
alone
!!!!

I love
you!!!!
So please
live!!!!



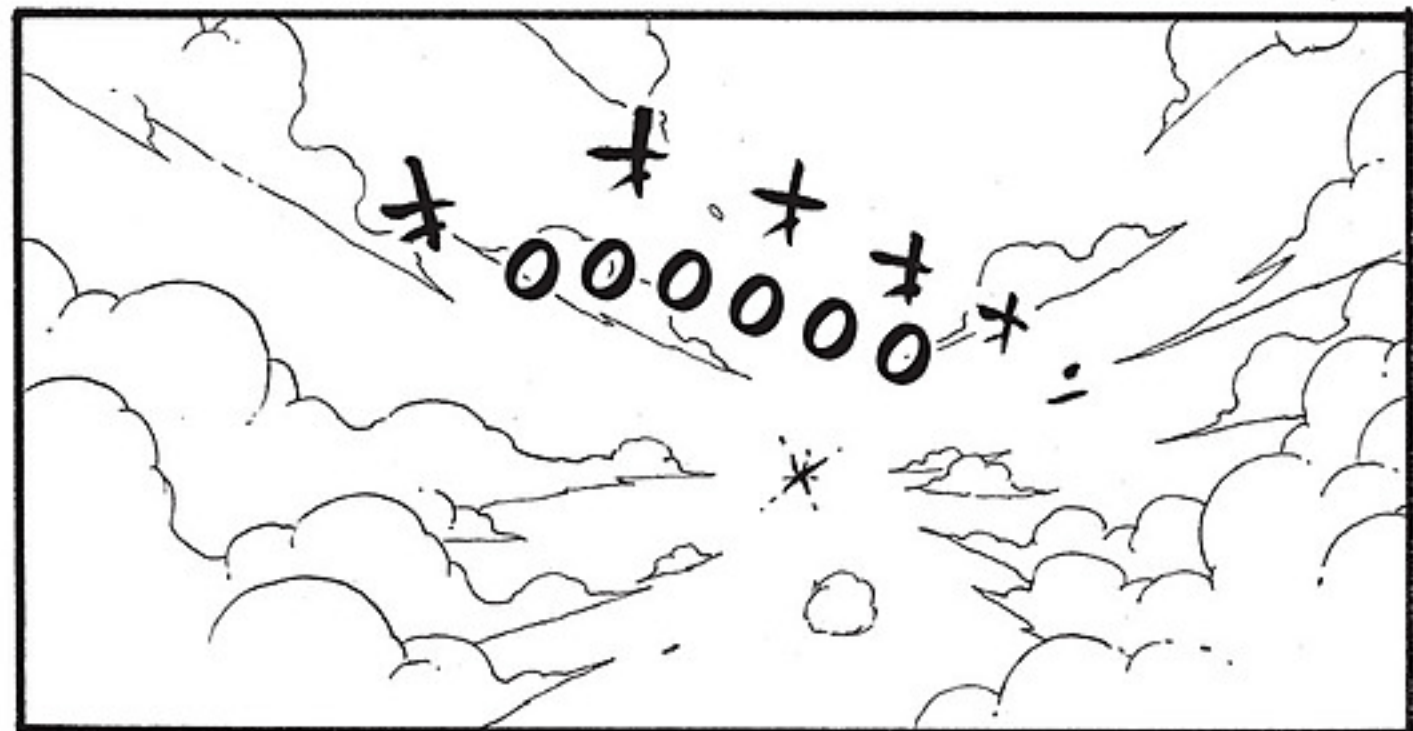






...
impudent
scum!

Fall
into the
under-
world
...



...
**Acho-
logia
!!!!**

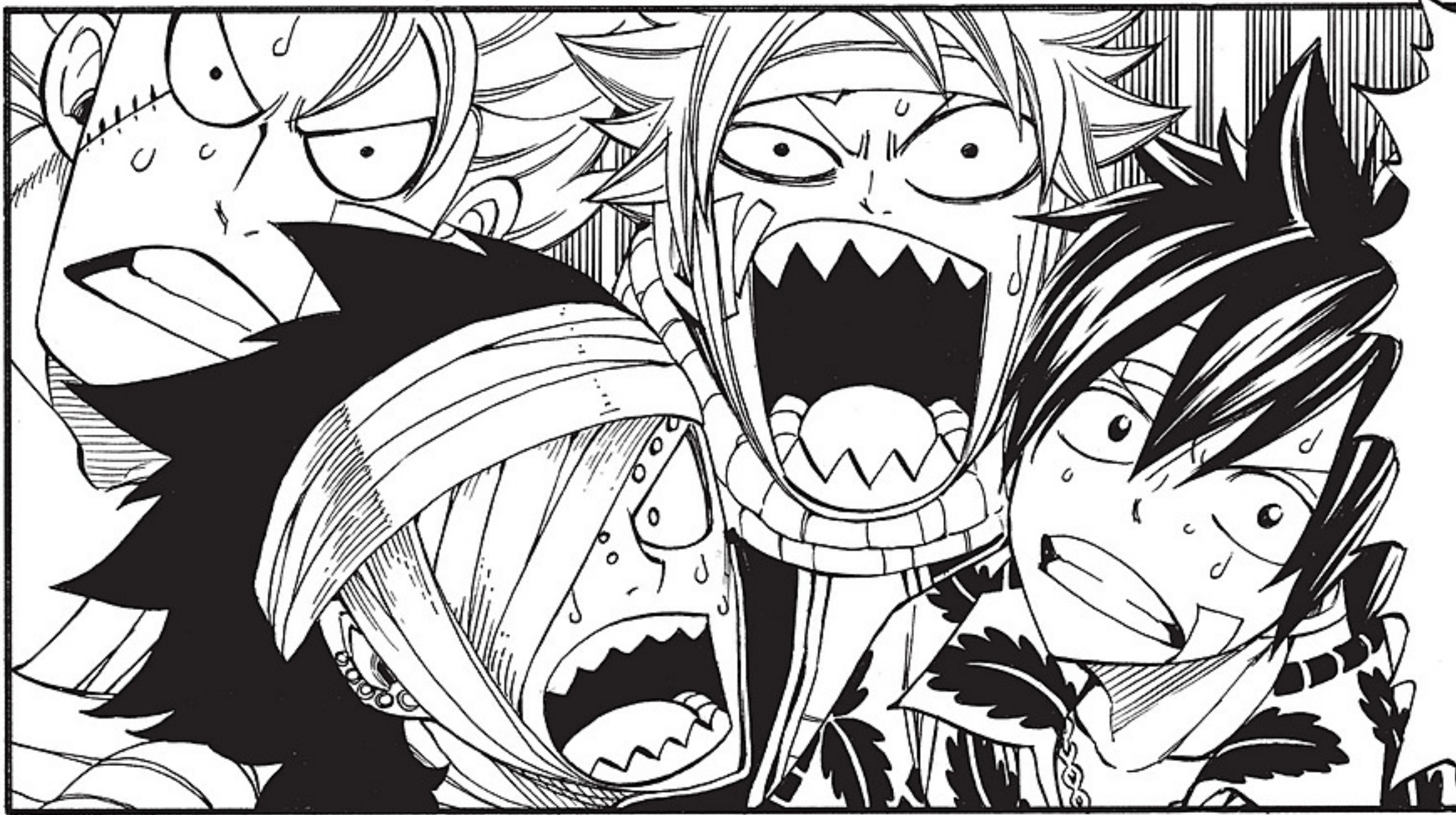
So
you've
come
...

FAIRY TAIL

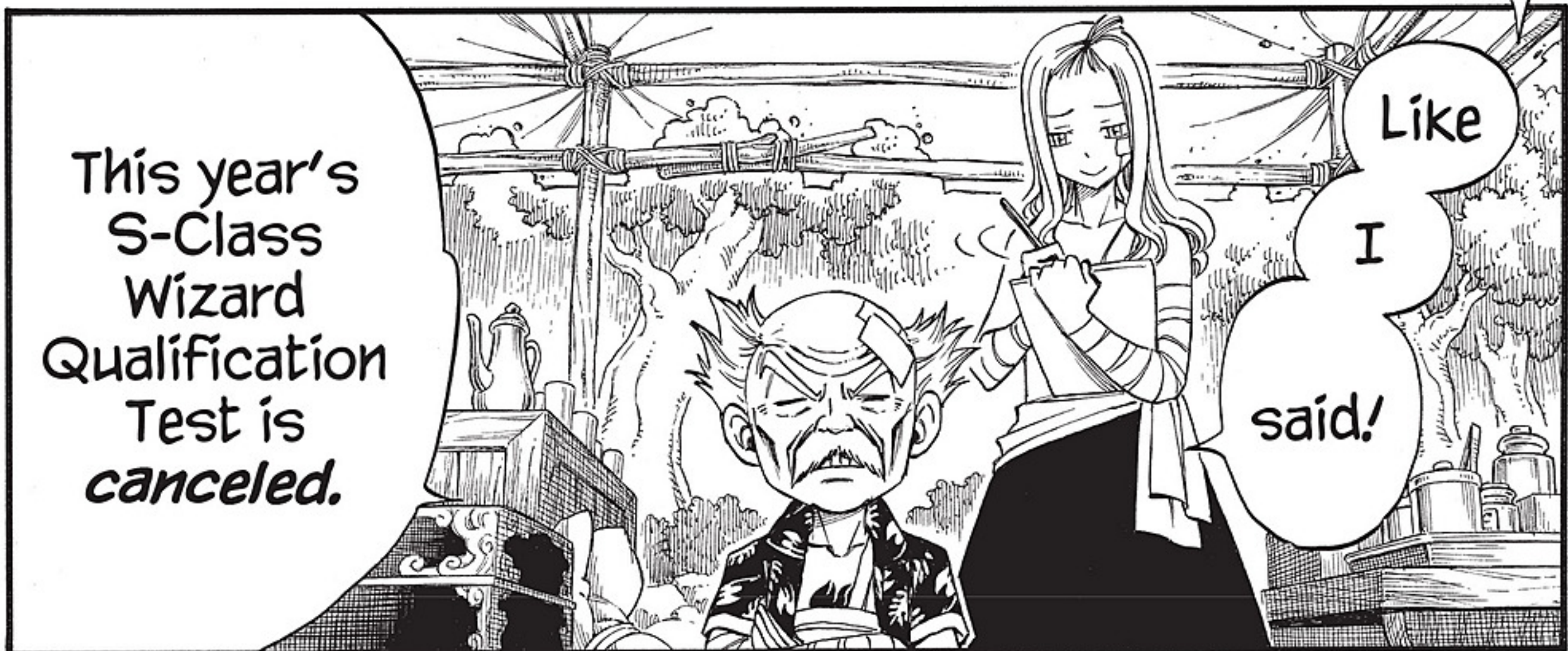
フェアリーテイル

Chapter 251: The Right to Love





W
H
A
A
A
A
T
?!!!



This year's
S-Class
Wizard
Qualification
Test is
canceled.

Like
I
said!



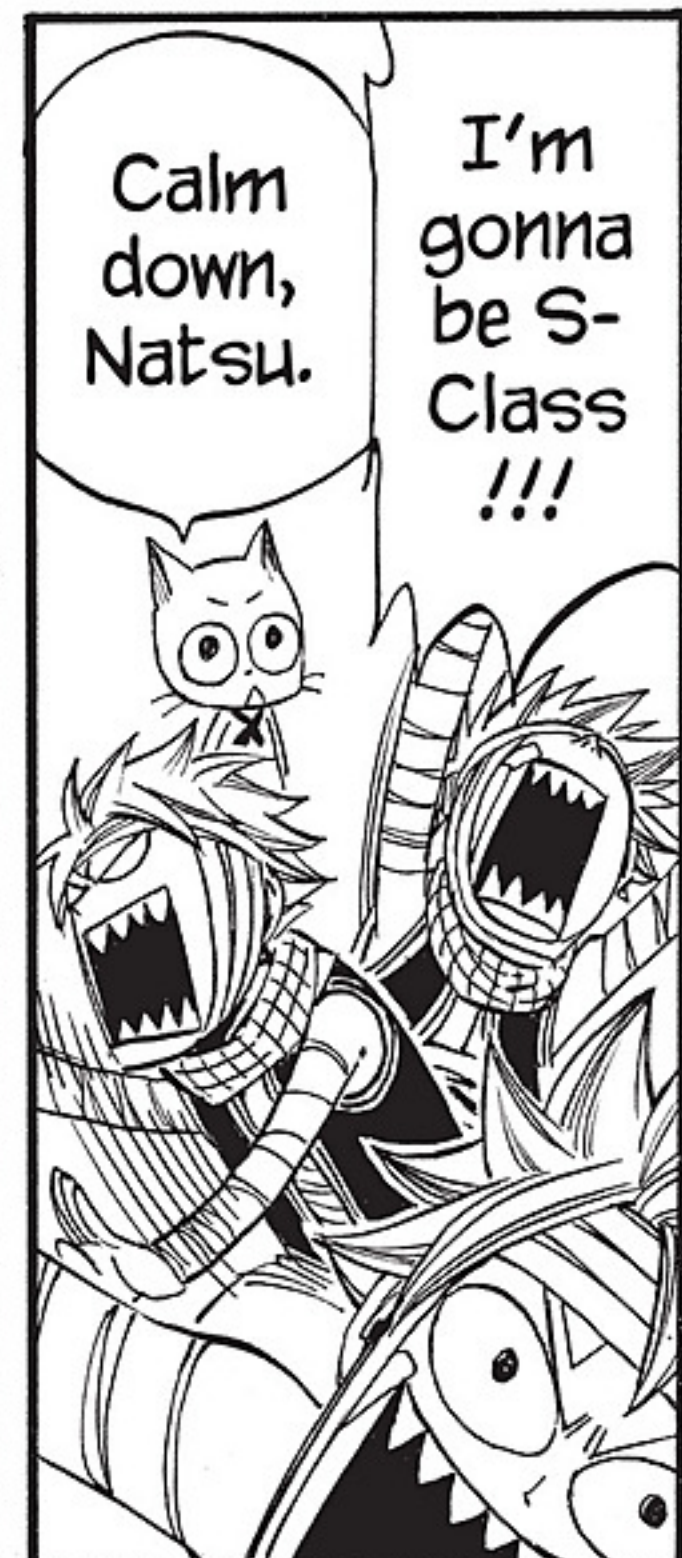
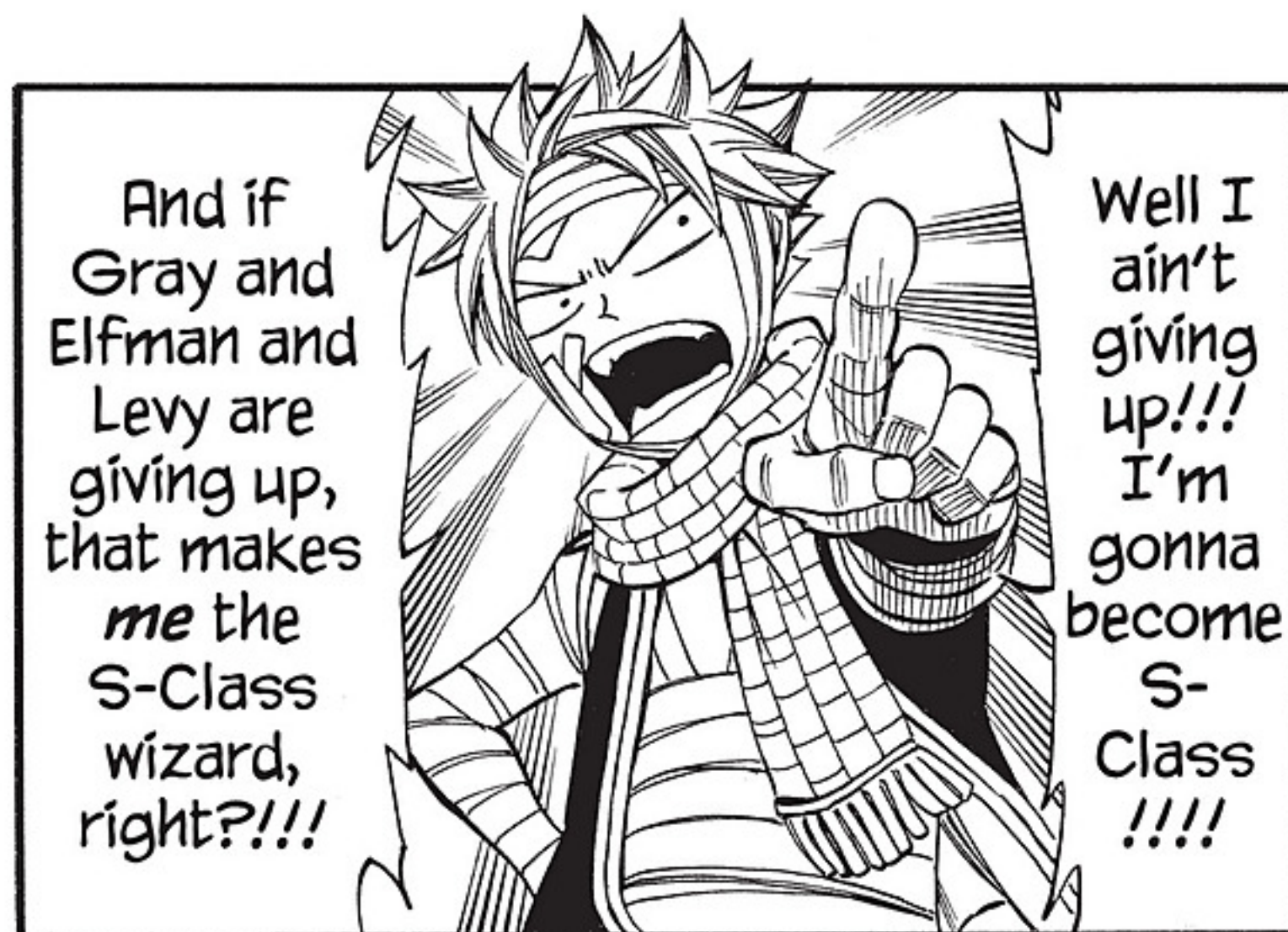
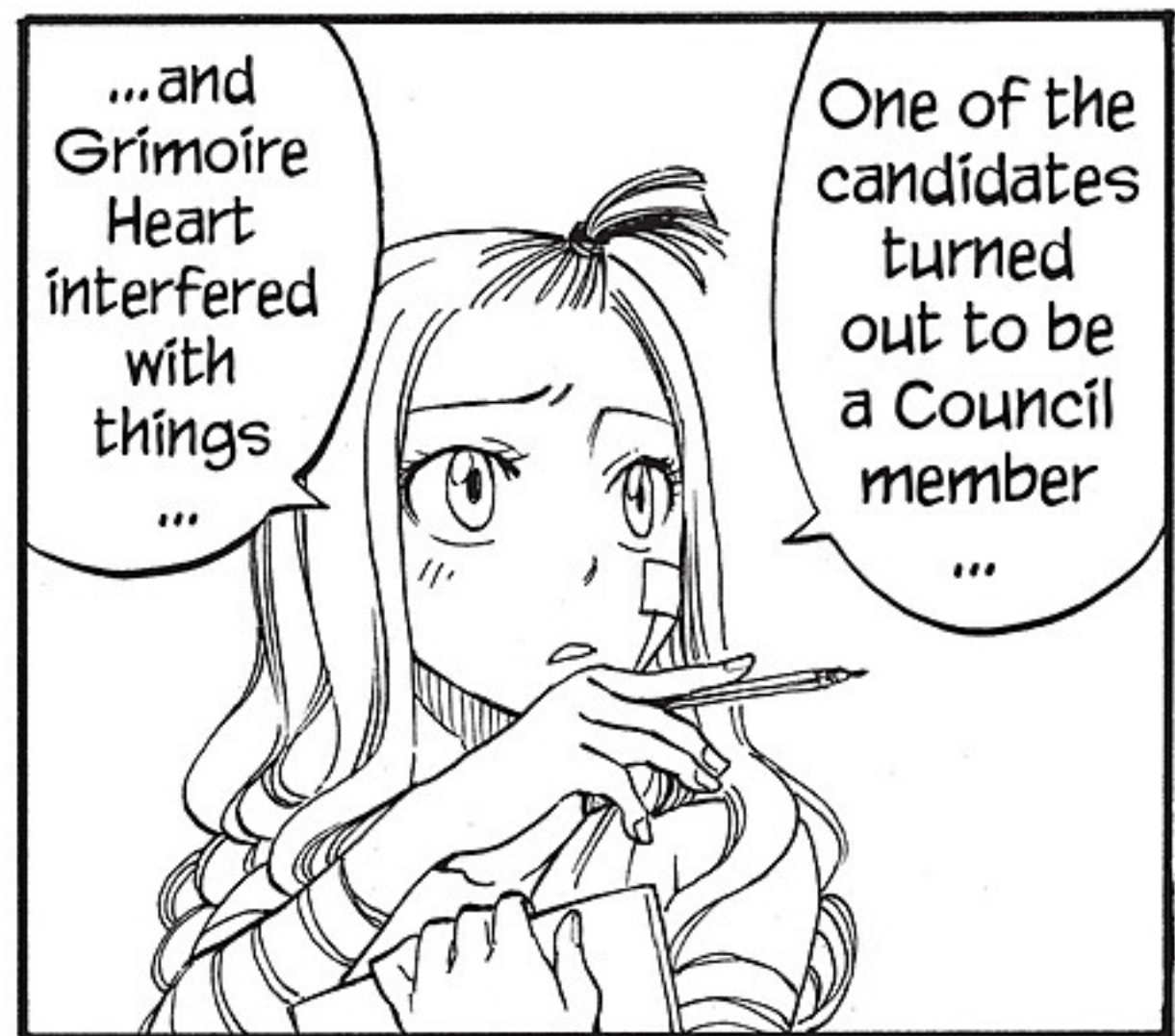
After
all that's
happened,
there's no
choice.

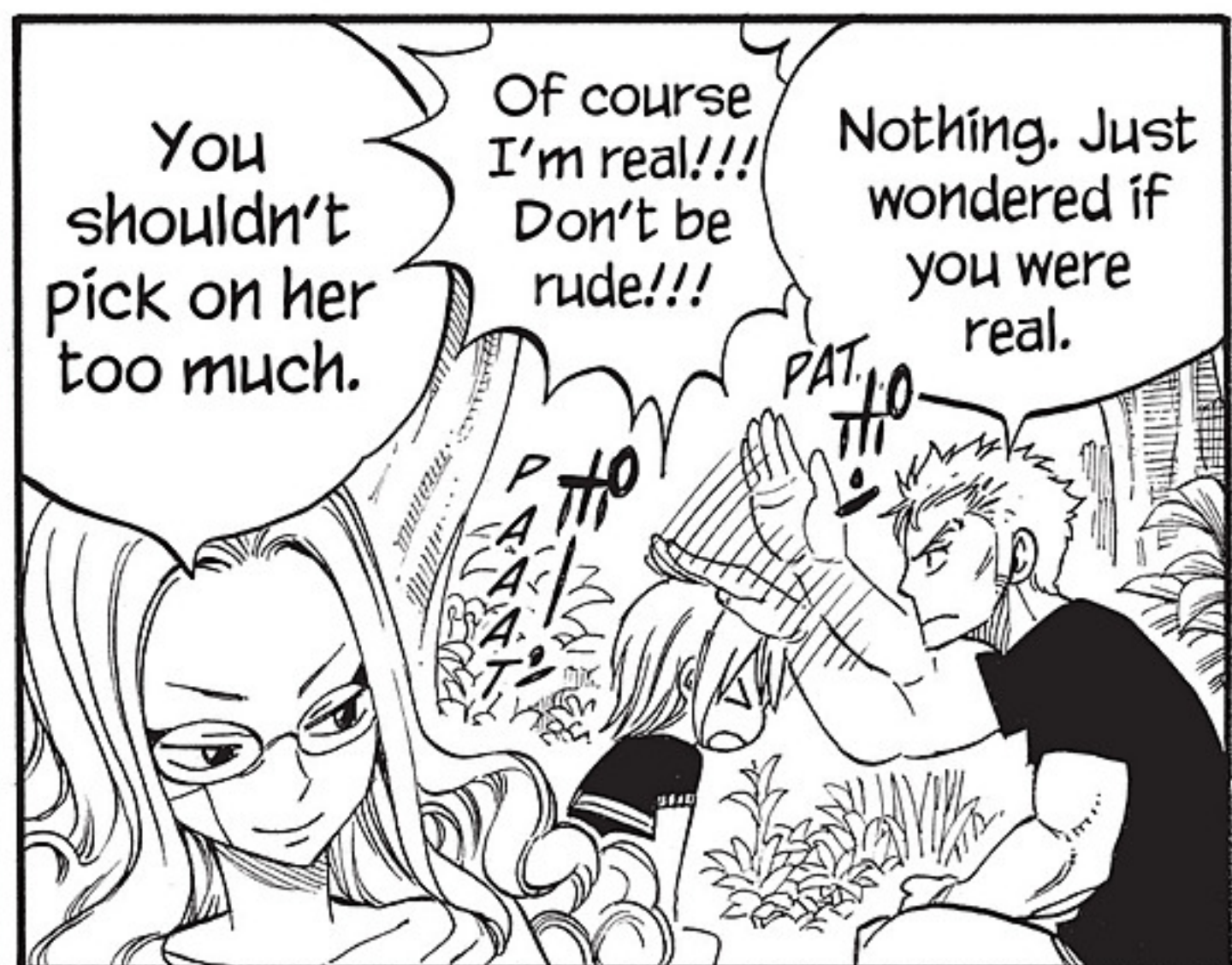
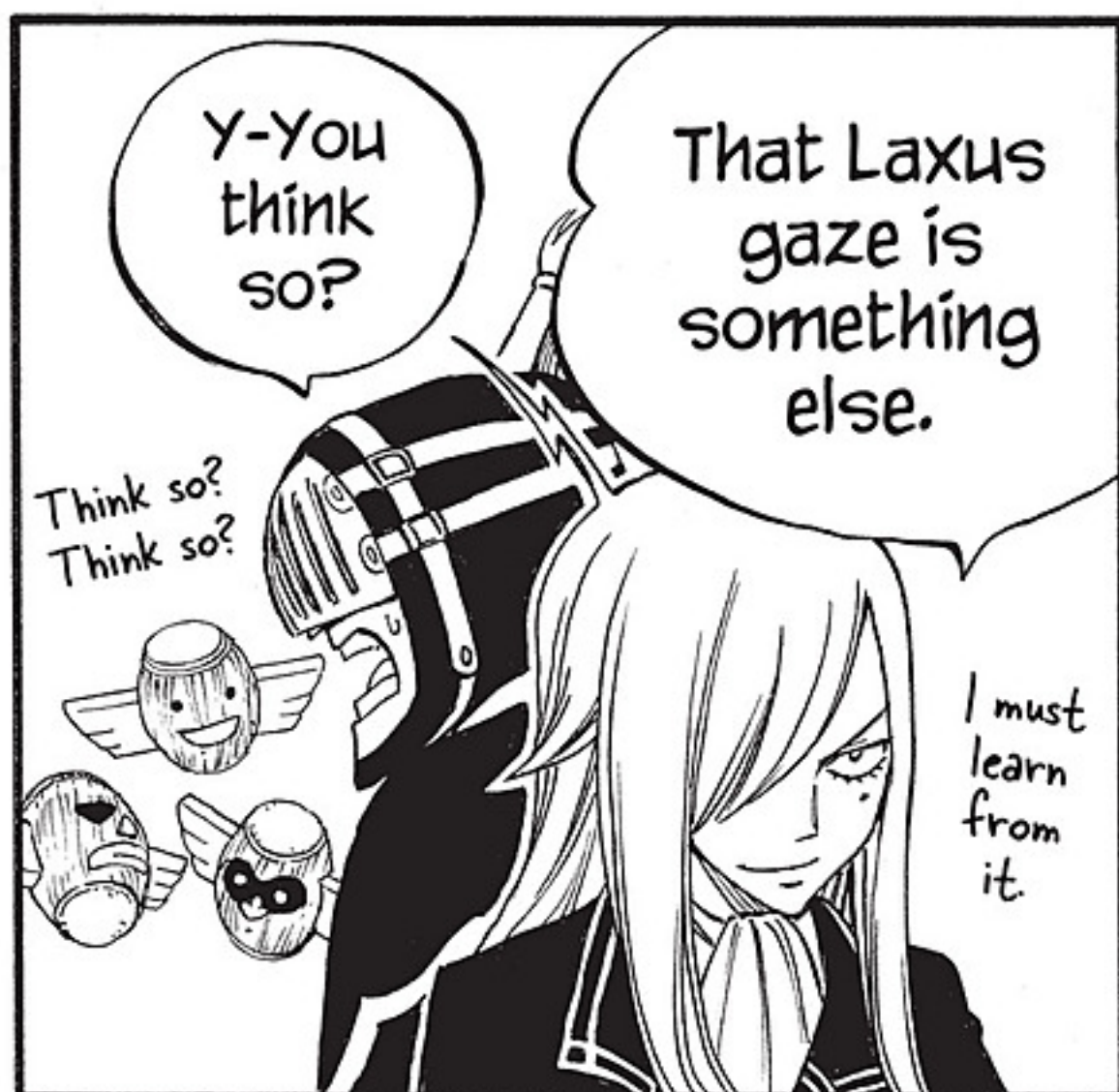
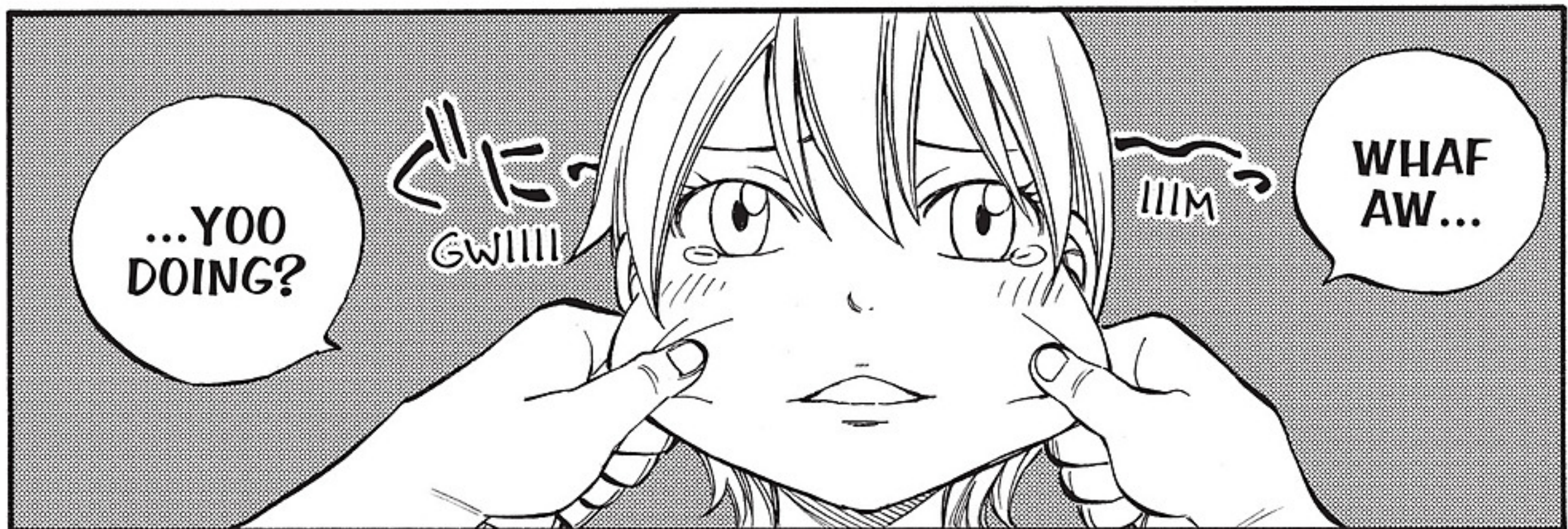
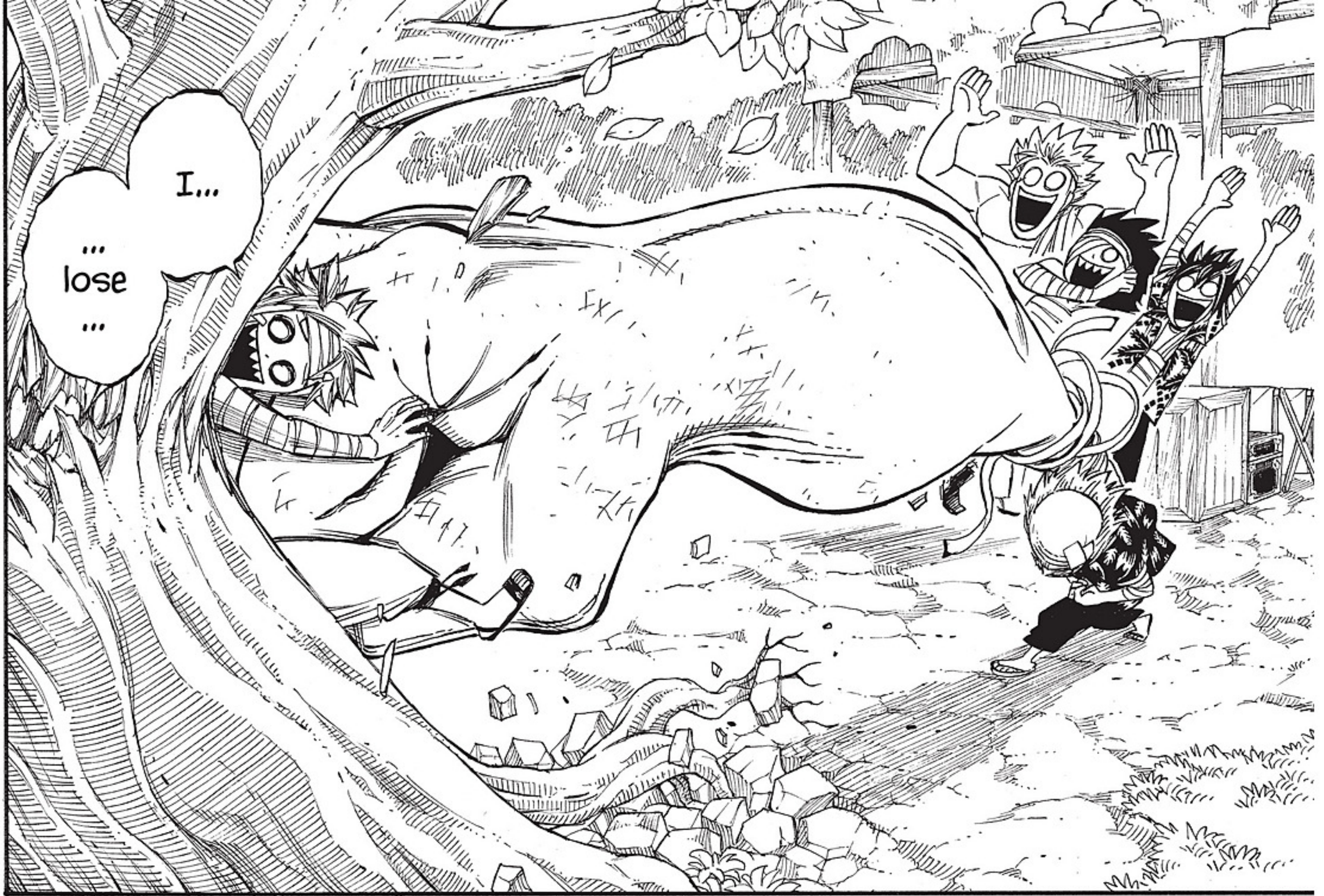
You aren't the
candidate! You
were trying
to make *Levy*
an S-Class
wizard.

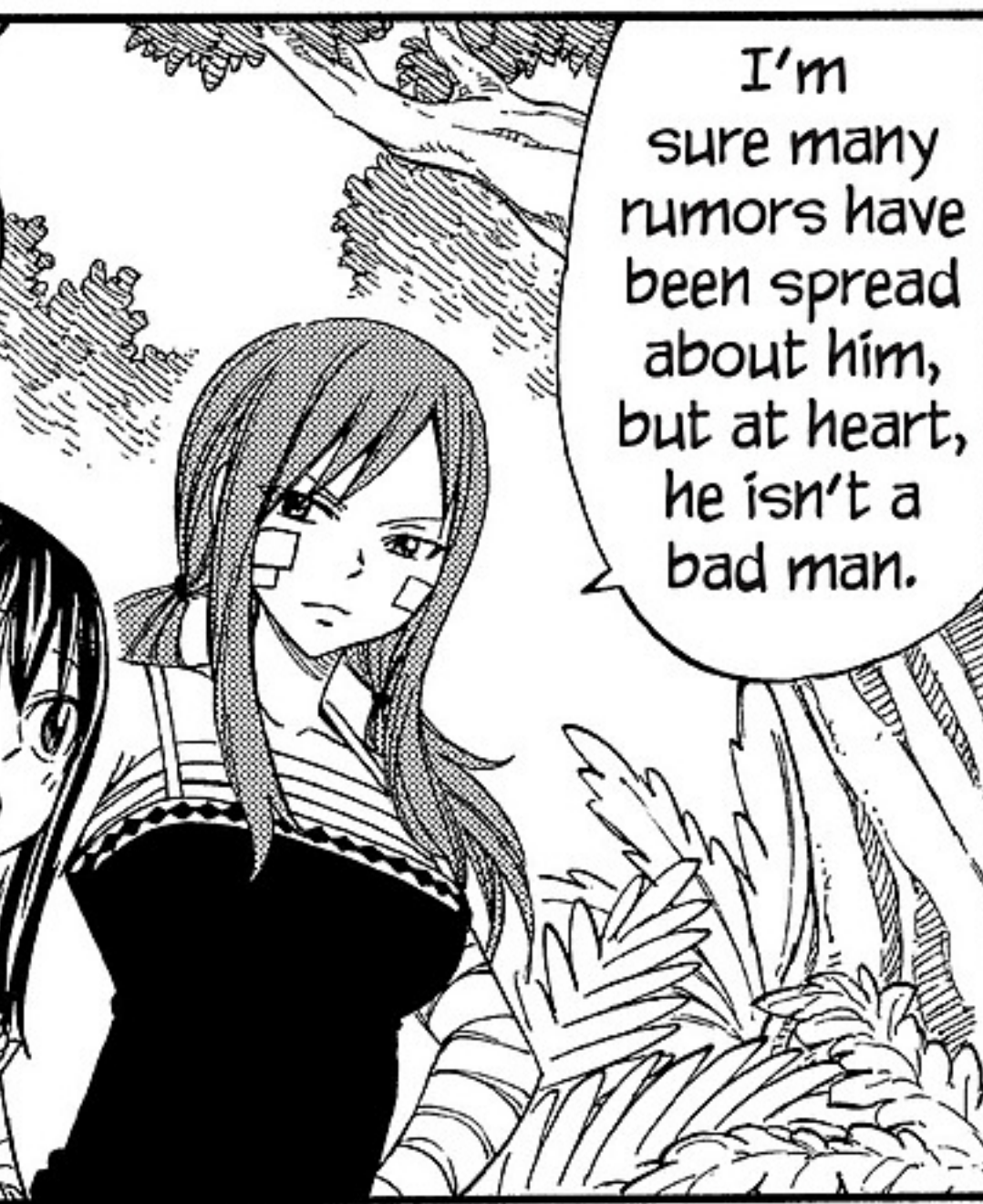
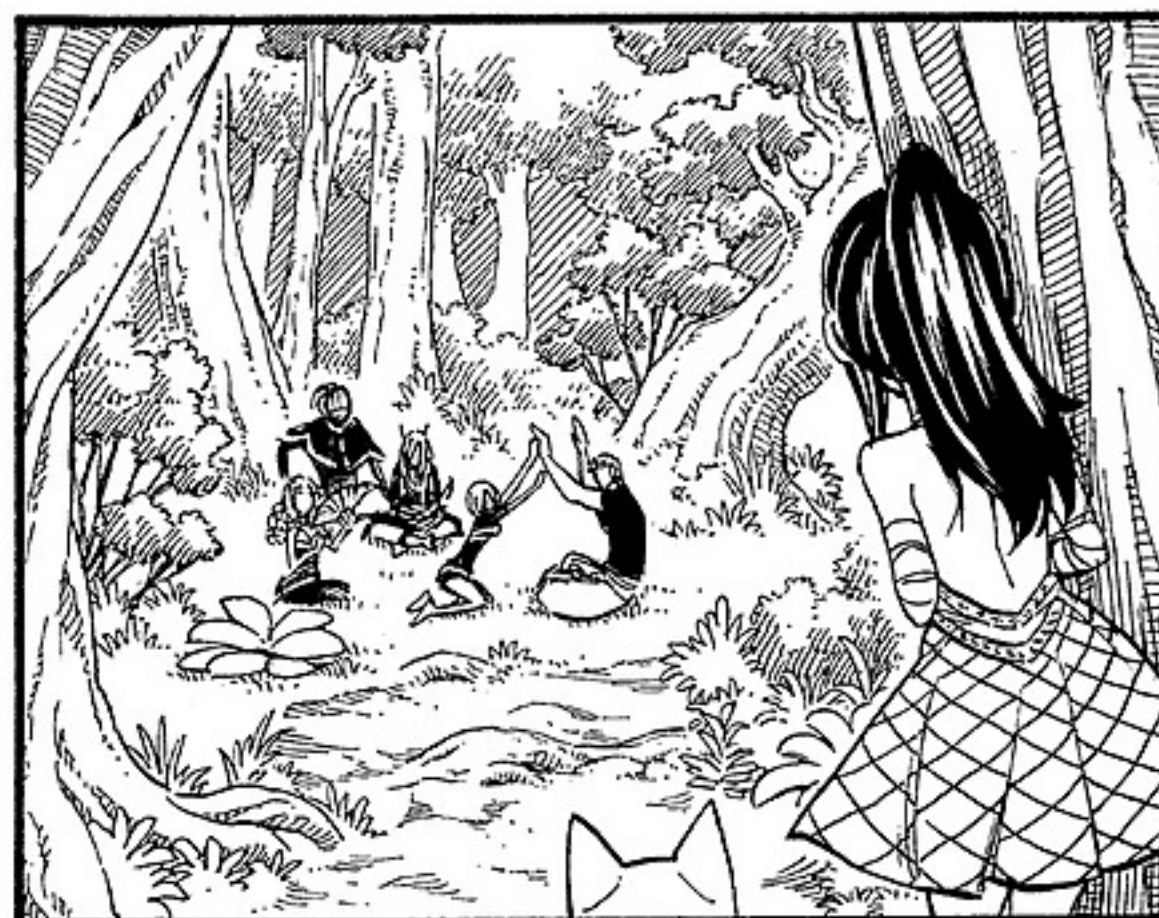
You will
make
me S-
Class
!!!

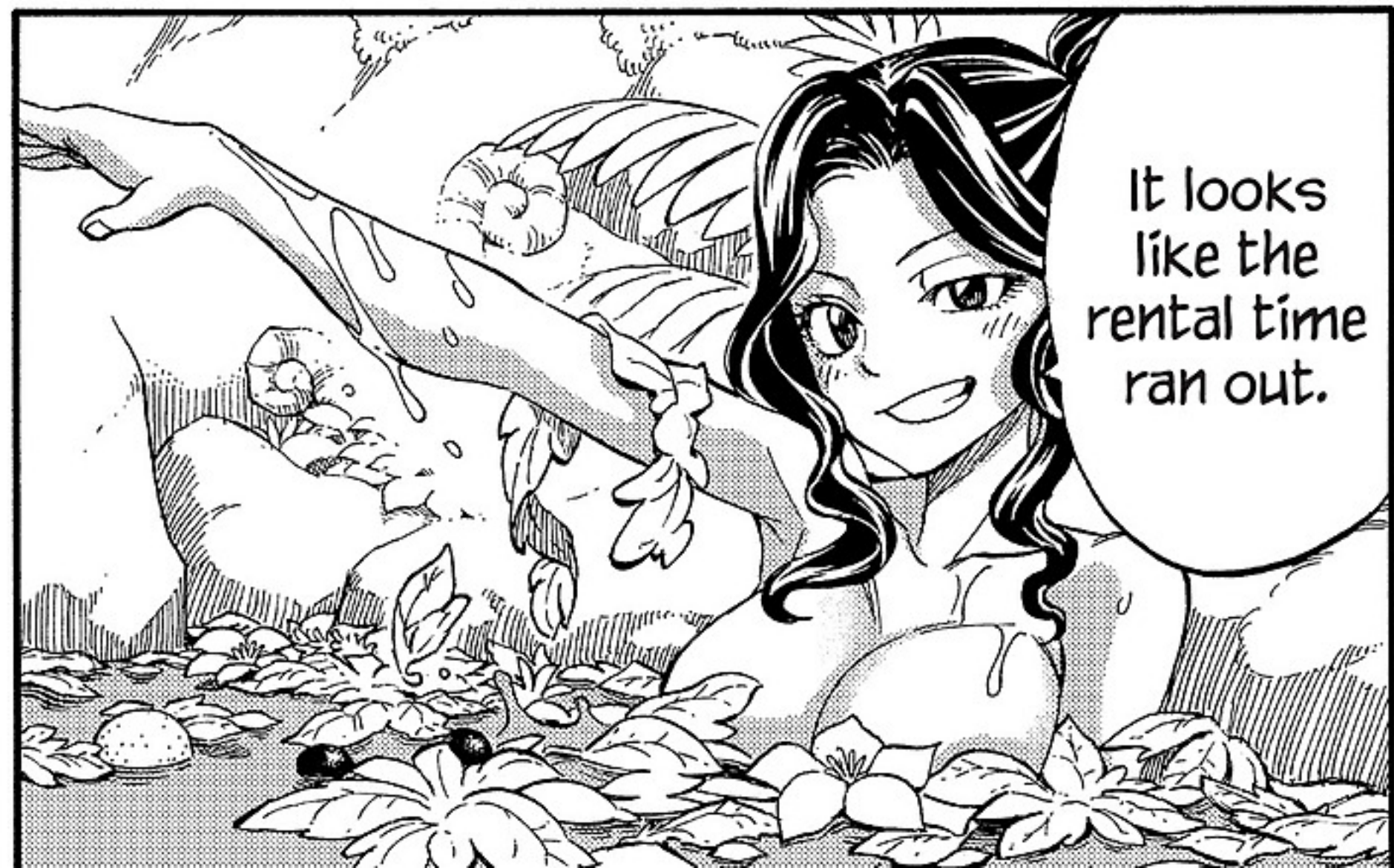
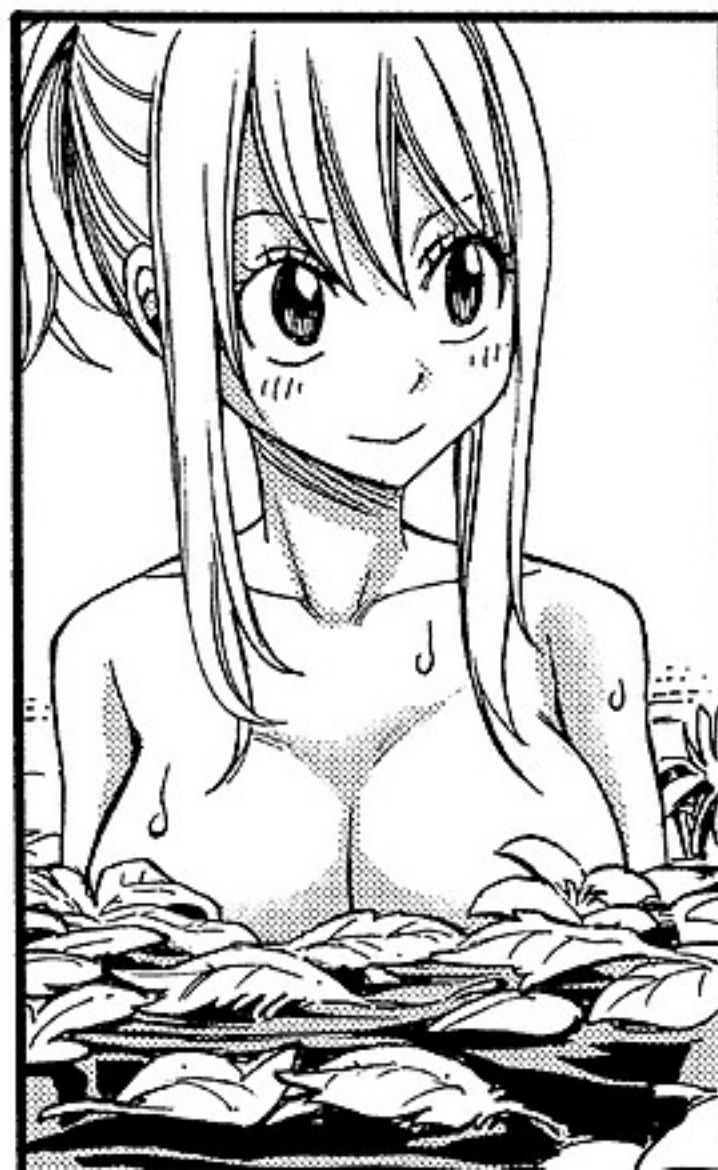
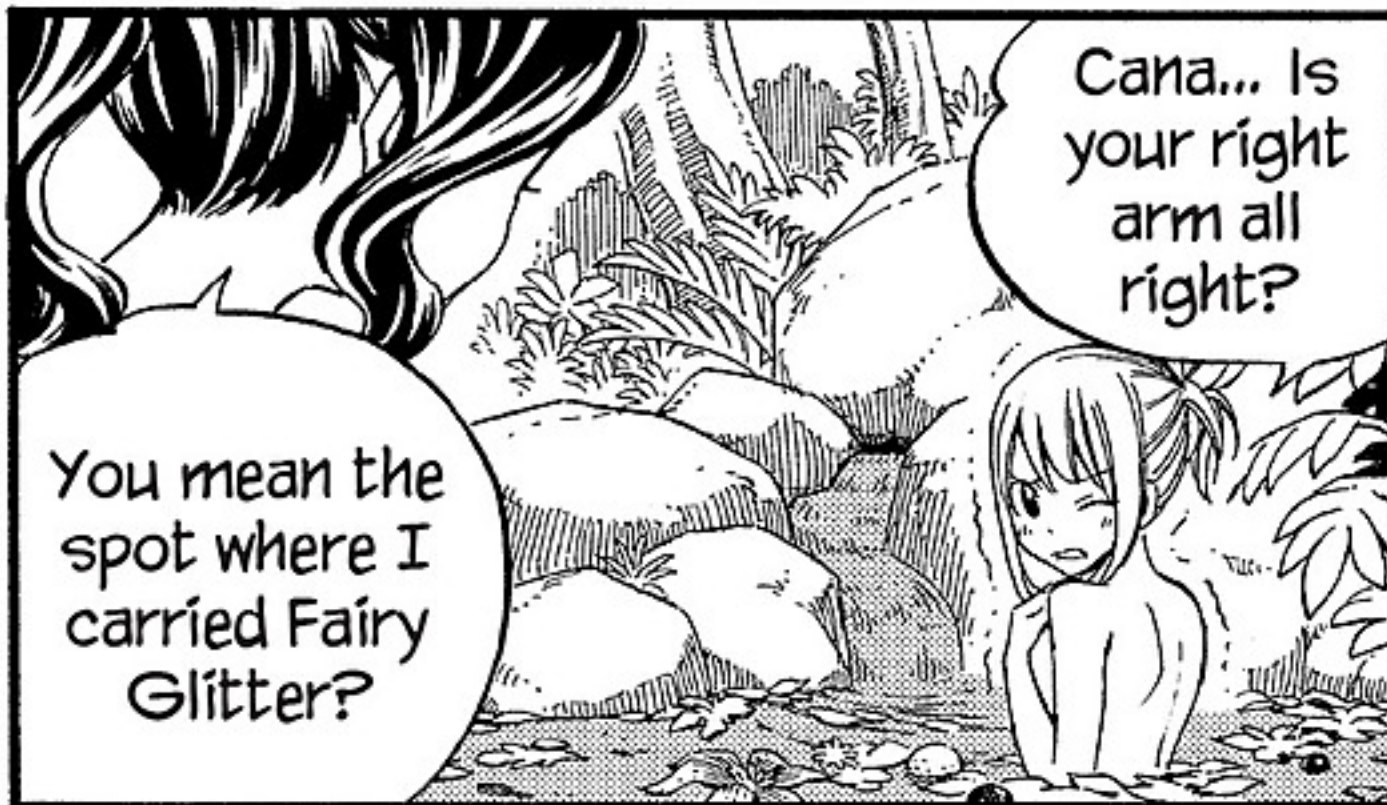
Why you
gotta
cancel
it?!!

I can't
accept
that,
old
man!!!











No worries.

I *am* worried about it.

You know... That time I left you alone and went searching on my own for Mavis's grave.

For what?

I'm sorry. Listen, Lucy...

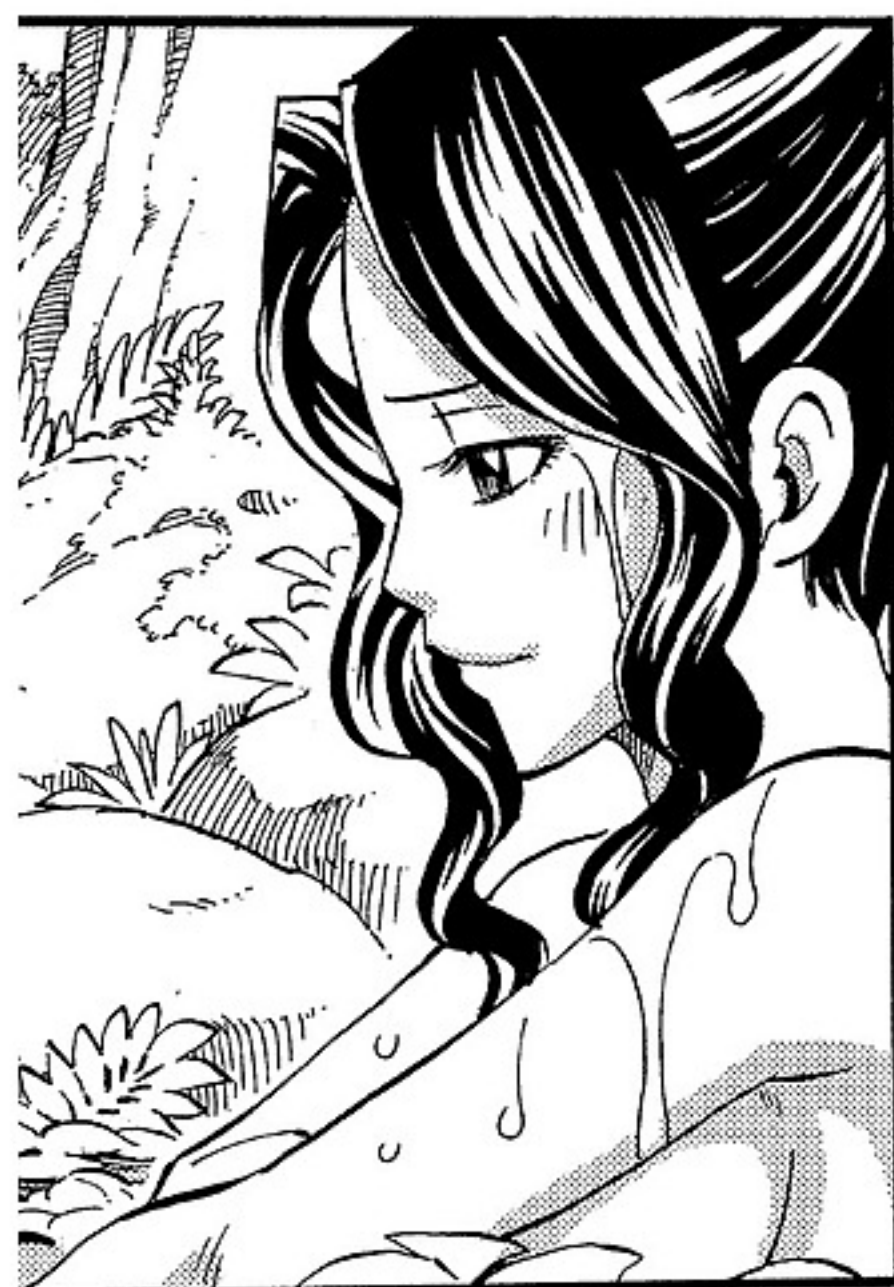


That isn't a betrayal. Just another prank, like you play all the time at the guild!

I'm right, aren't I?



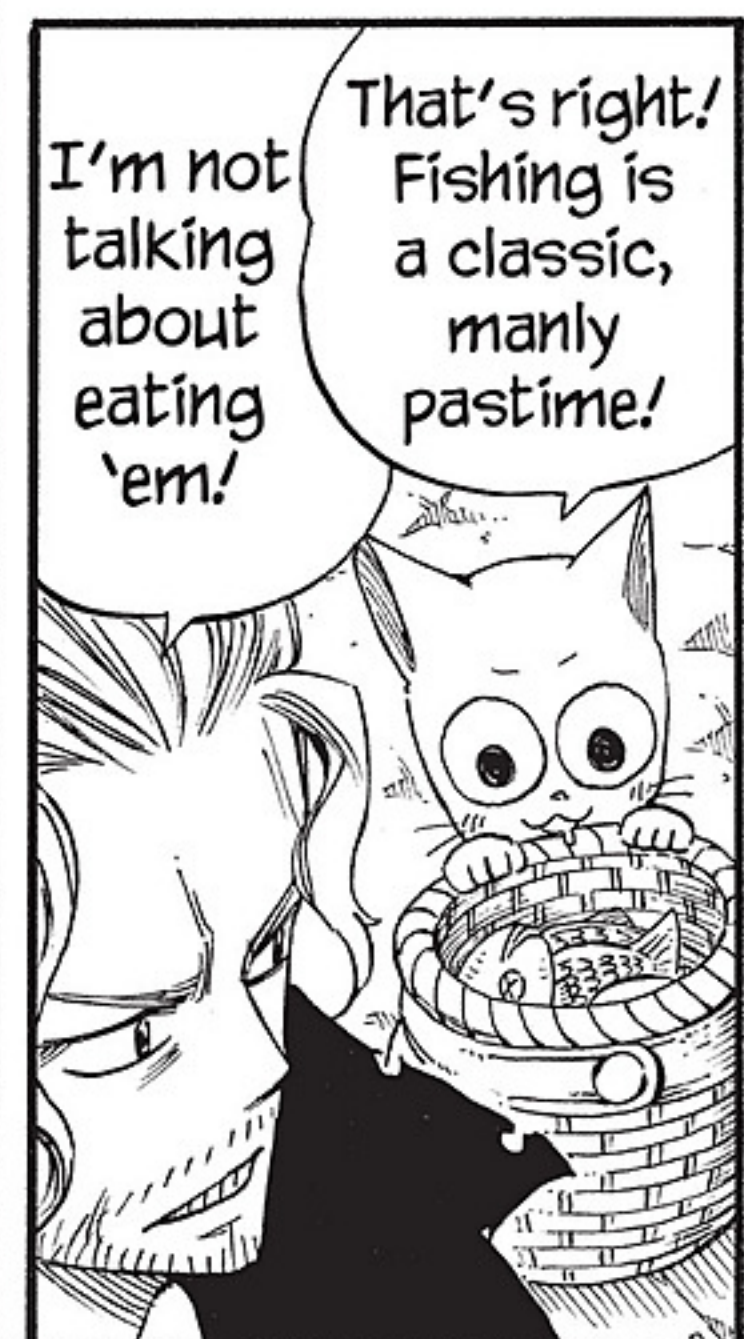
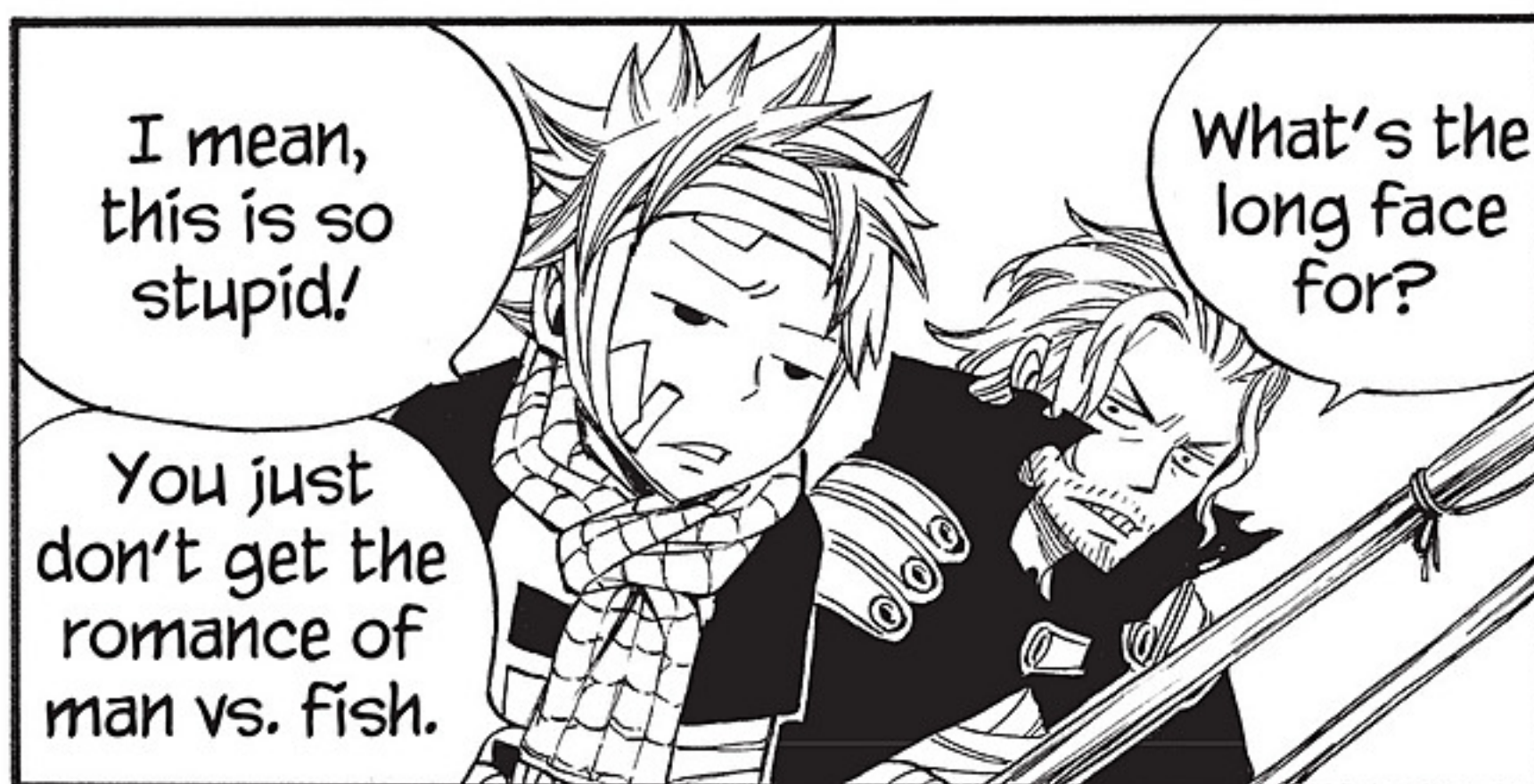
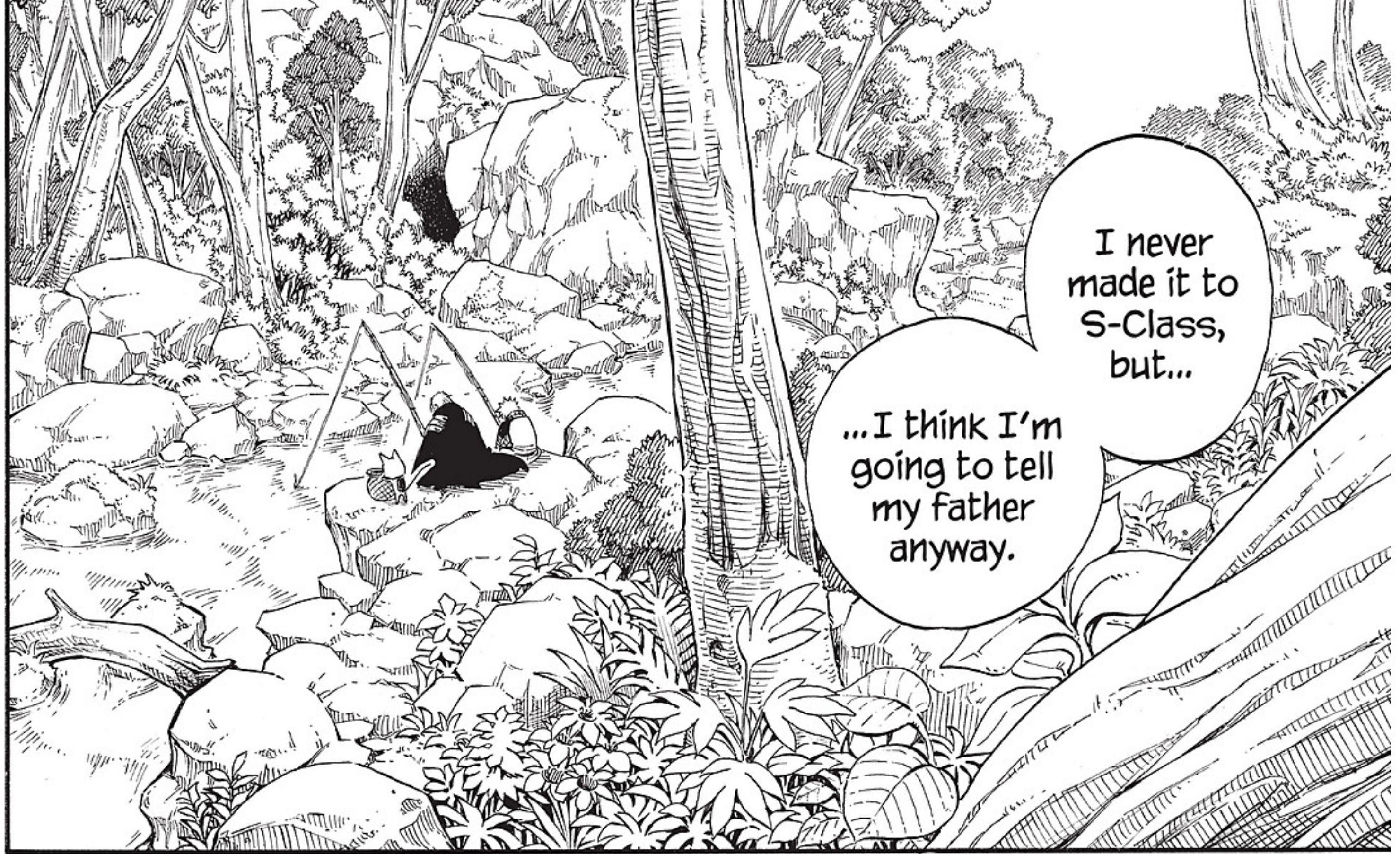
I think I'll always regret betraying my friends.

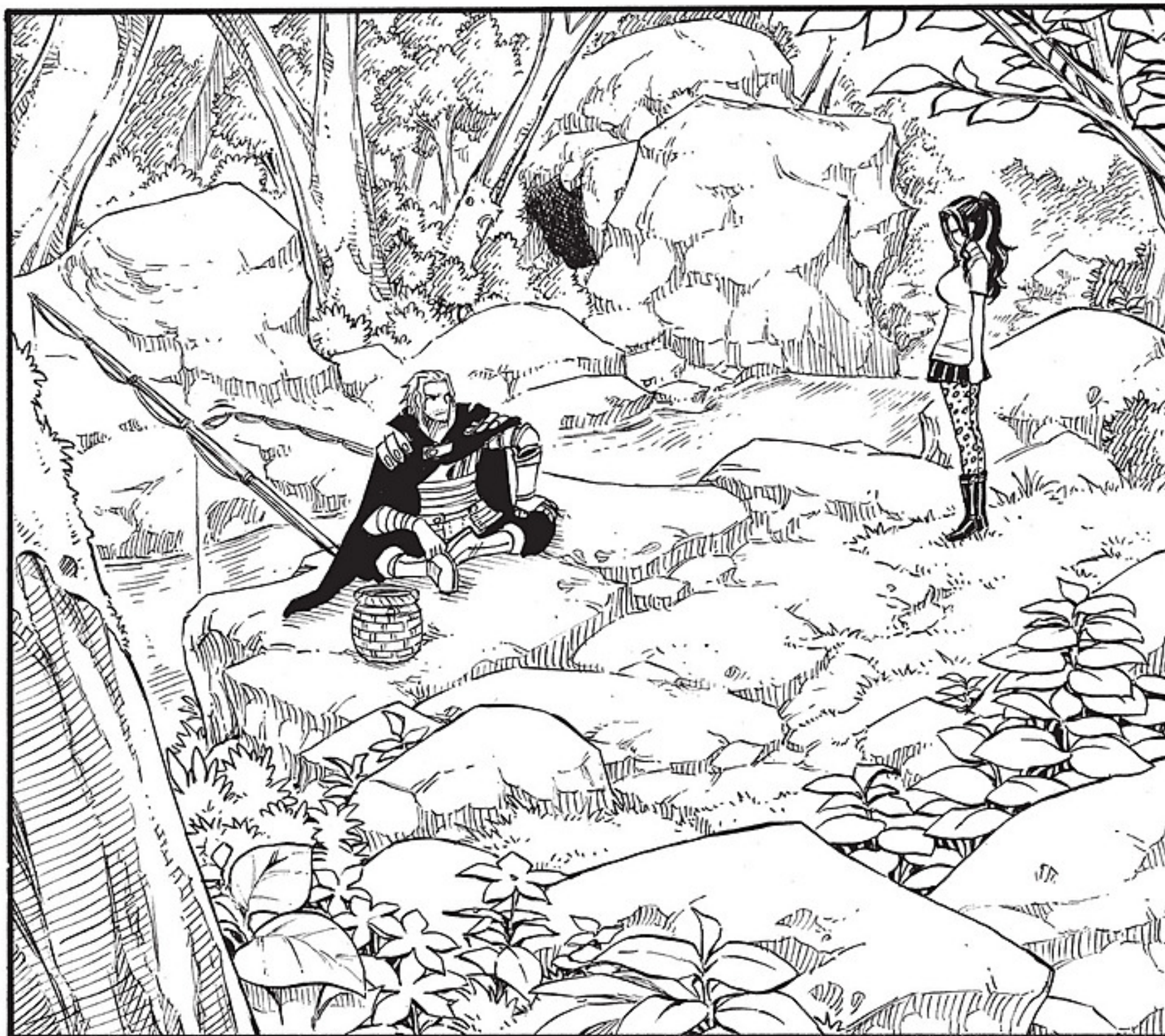
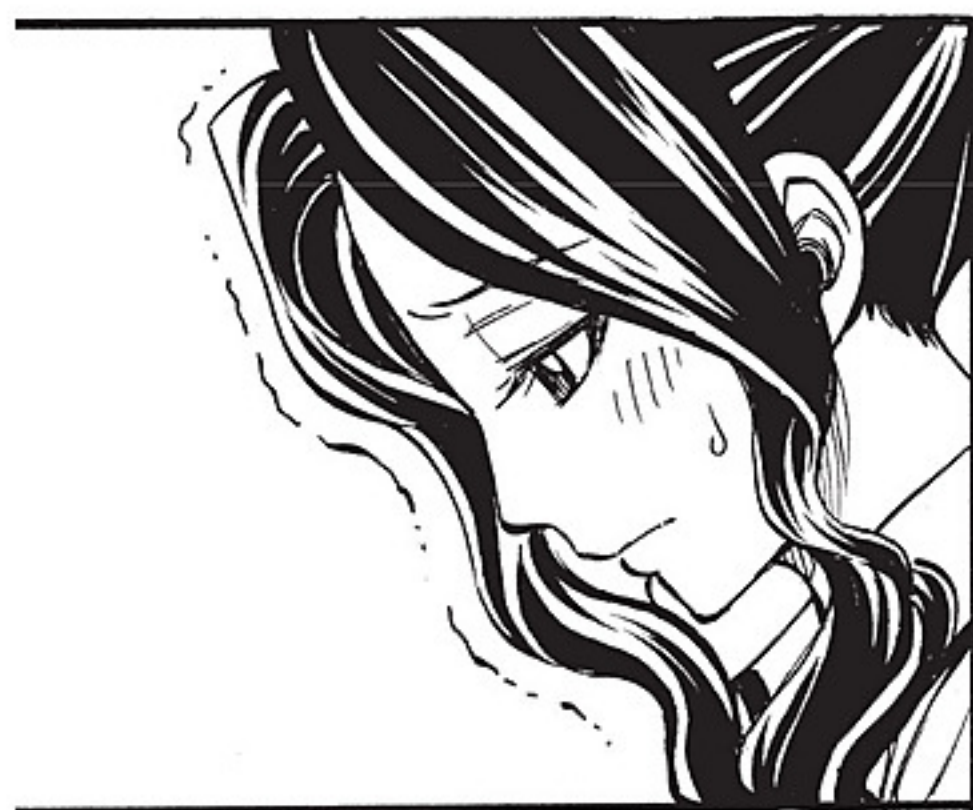
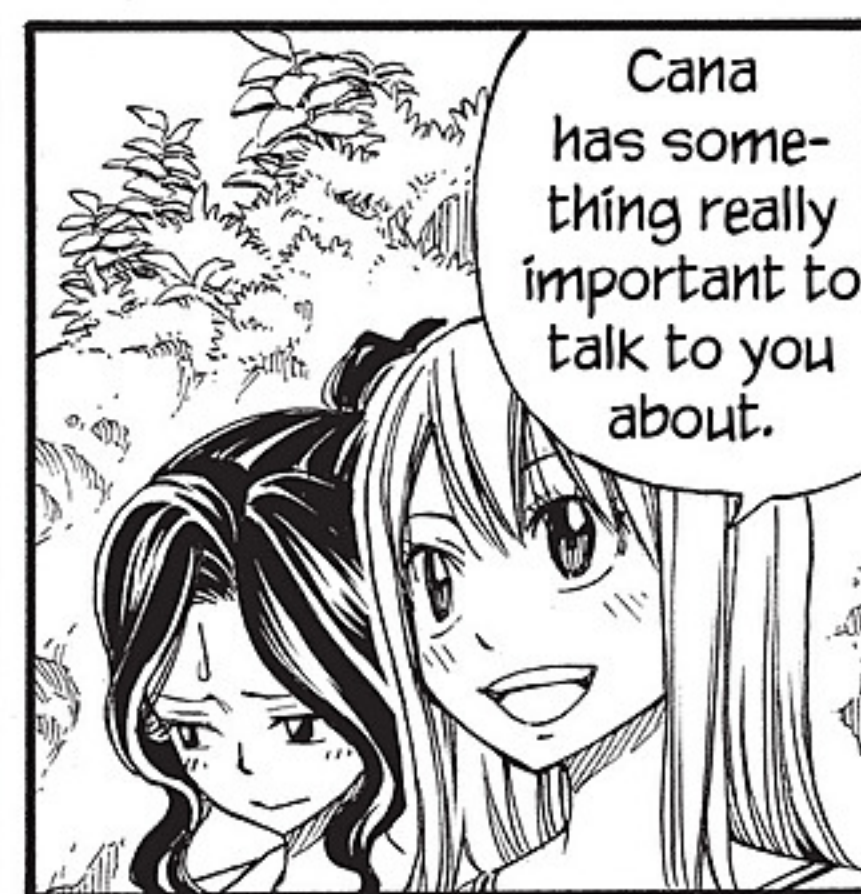
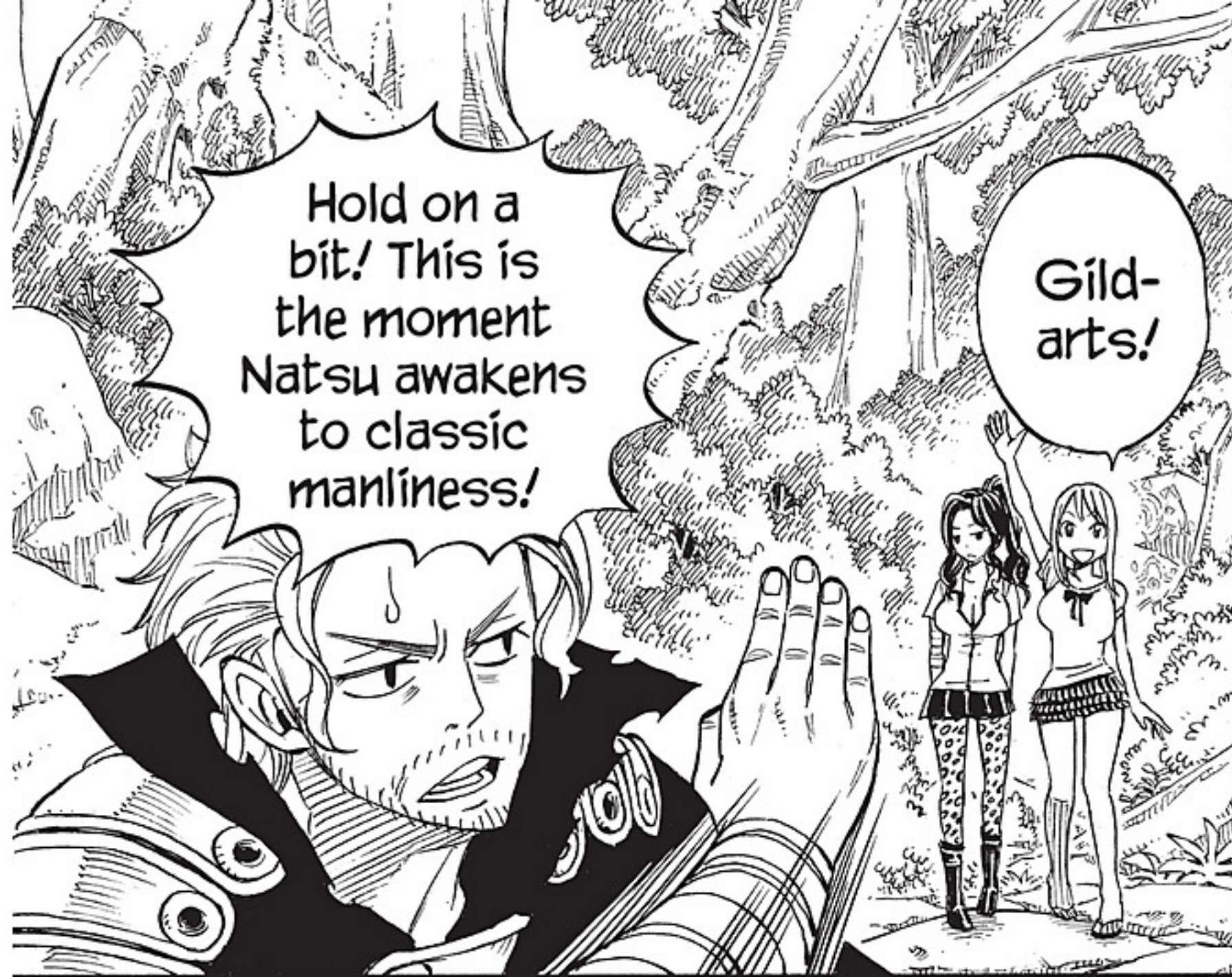


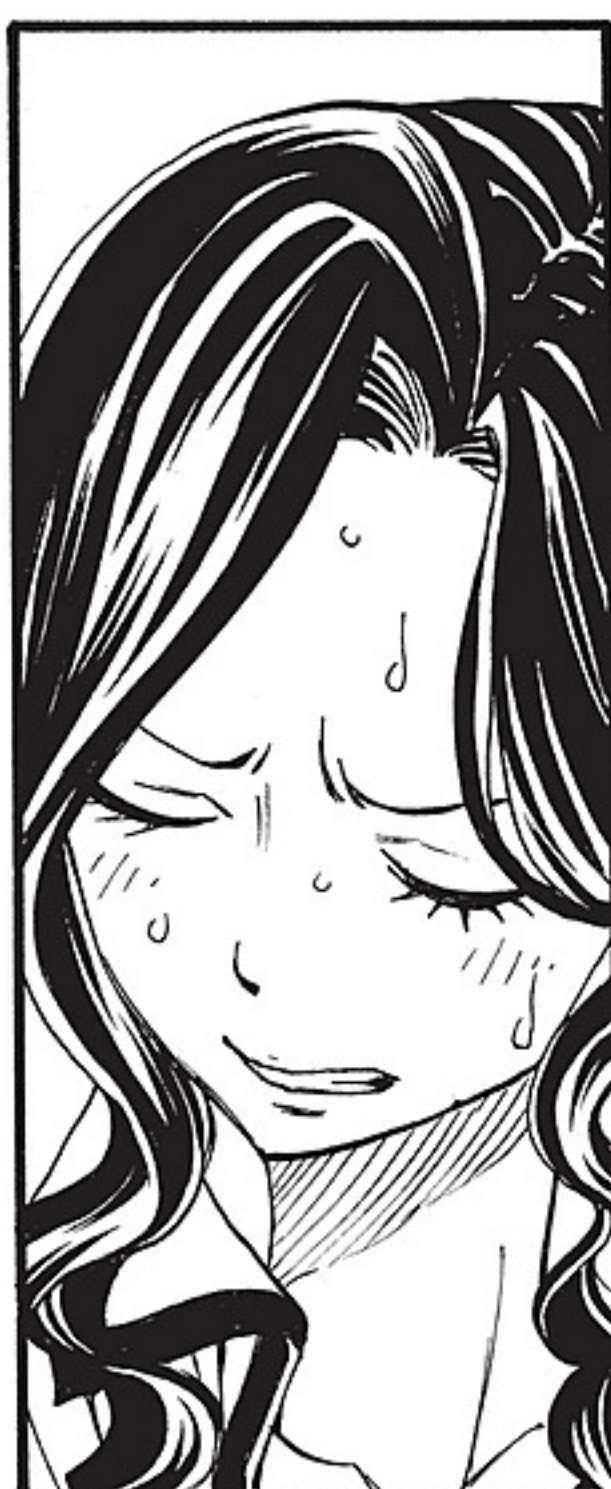
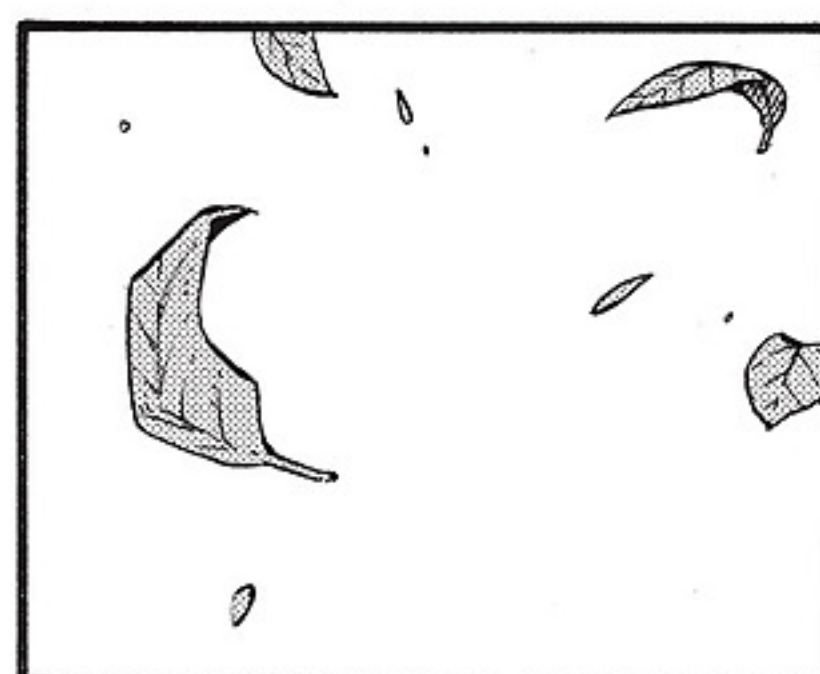
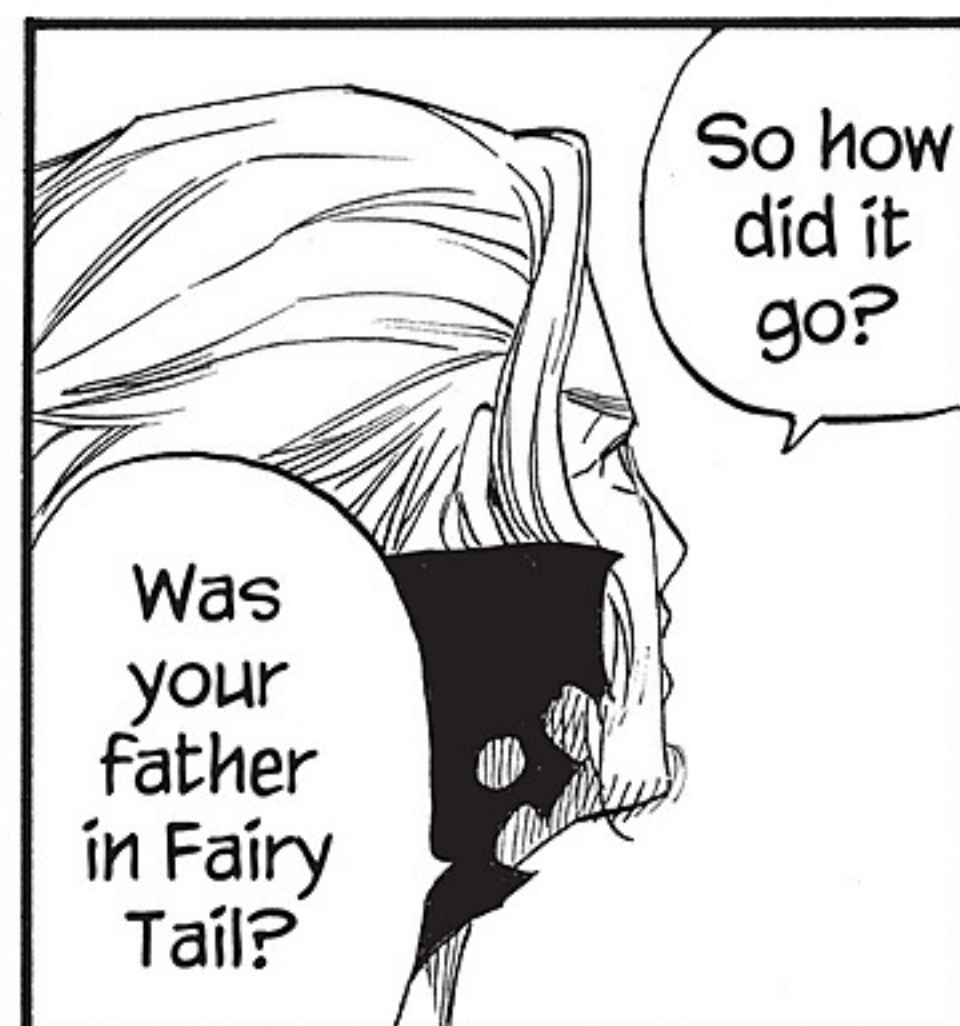
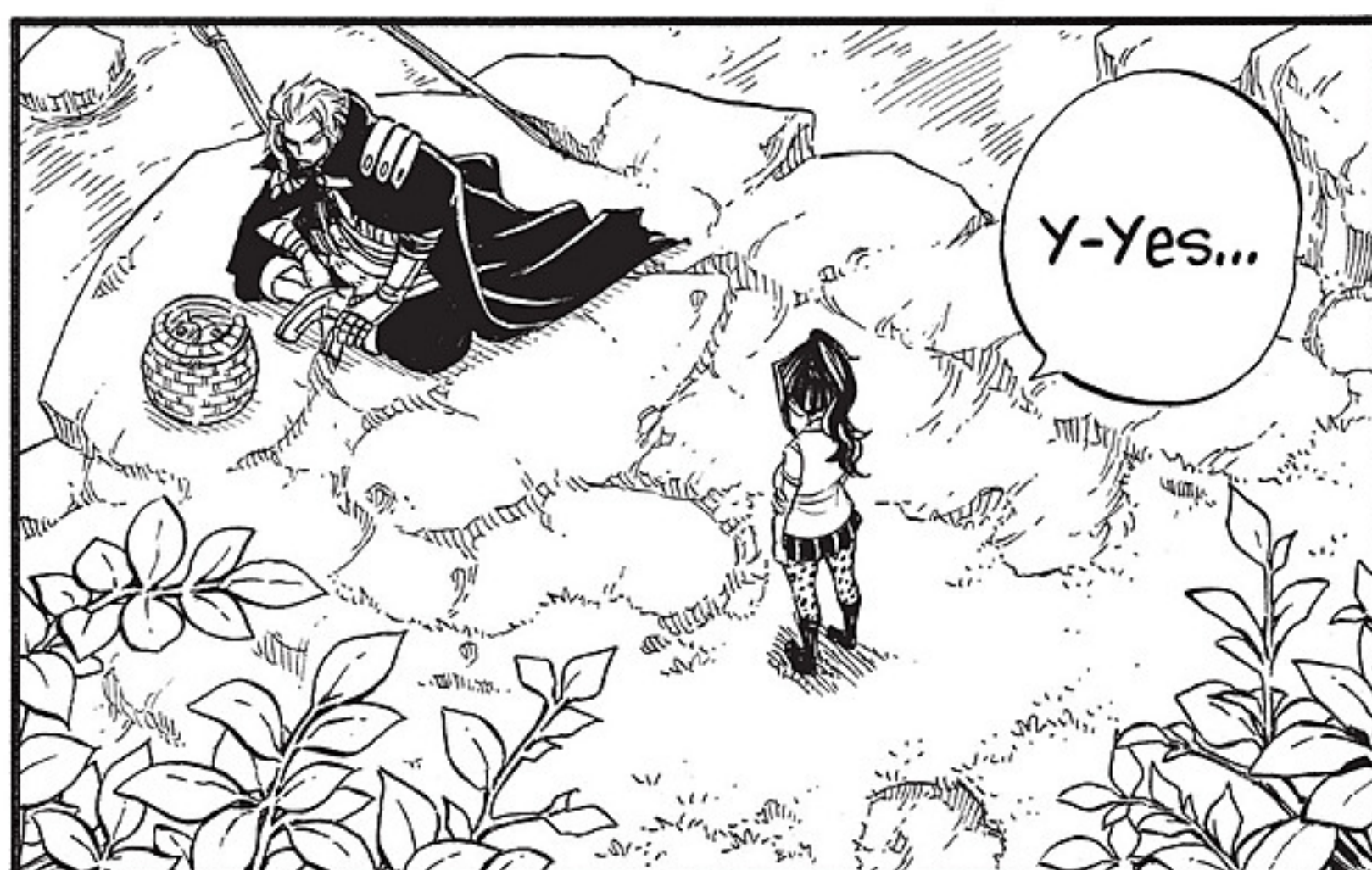
Right?

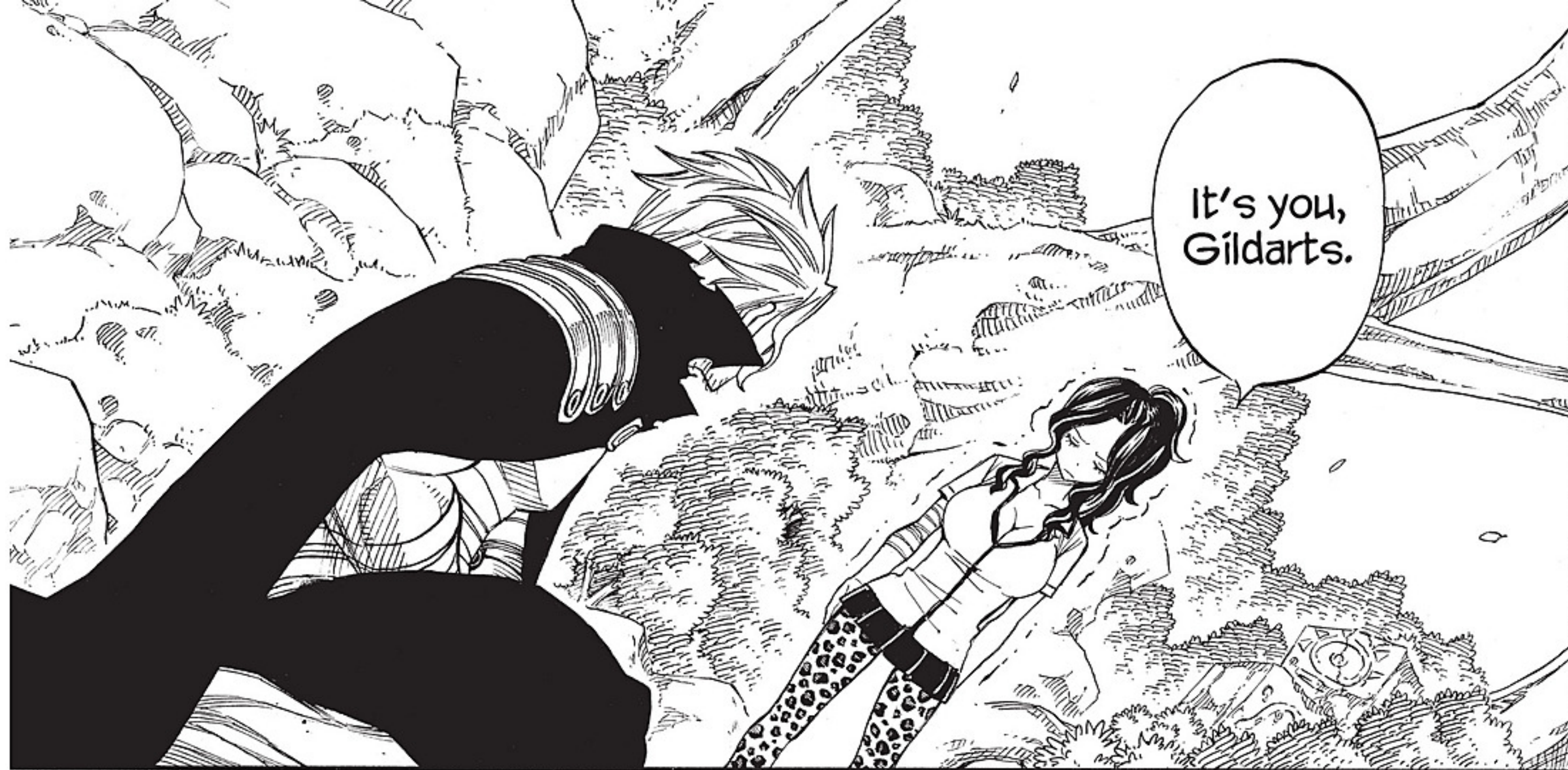
...that'd **suck** for me too!

And if I started thinking you were some kind of traitor all the time ...

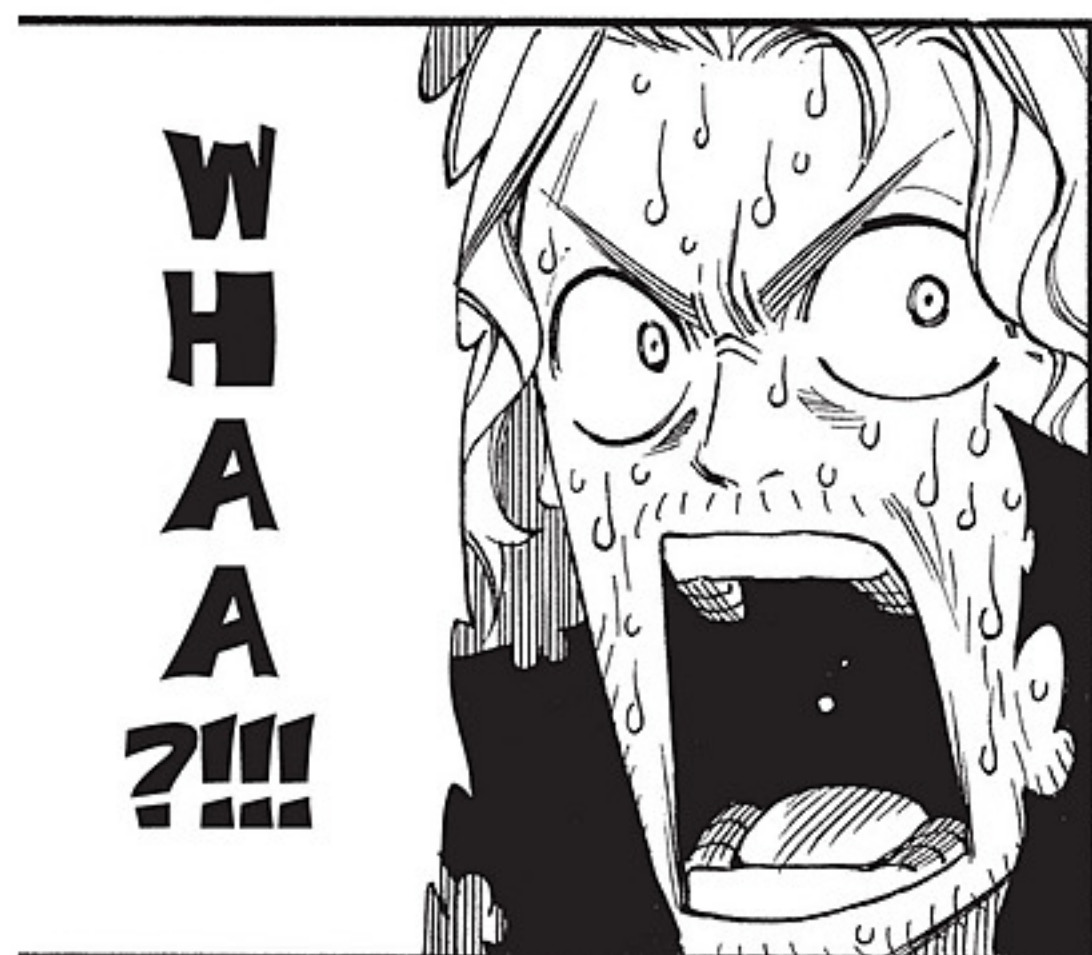




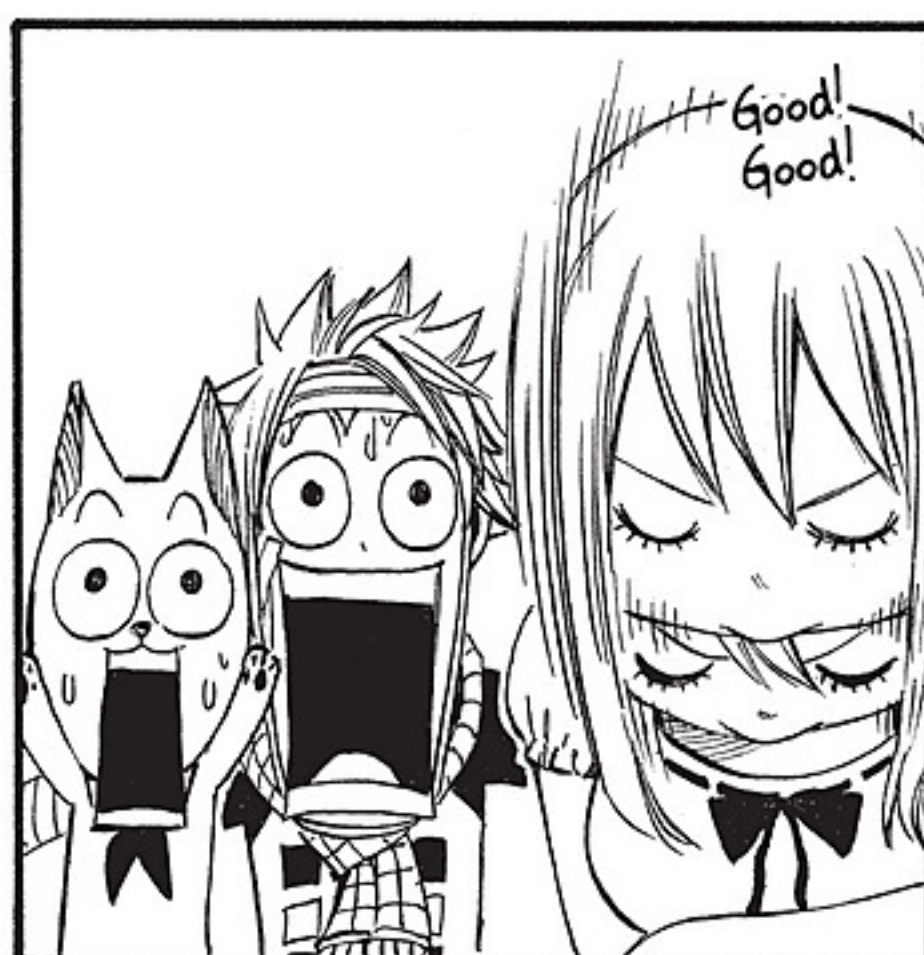




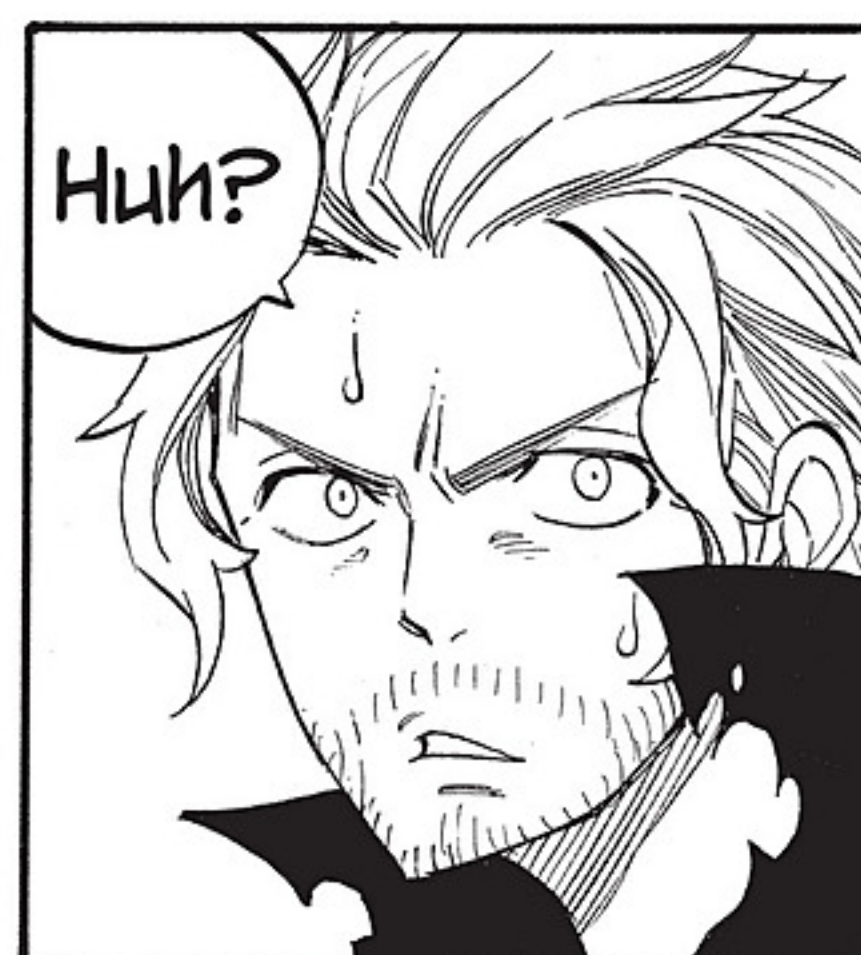
It's you,
Gildarts.



**W
H
A
A
?!!!**



Good!
Good!



Huh?



Yeah... It's
hard to
accept,
huh?

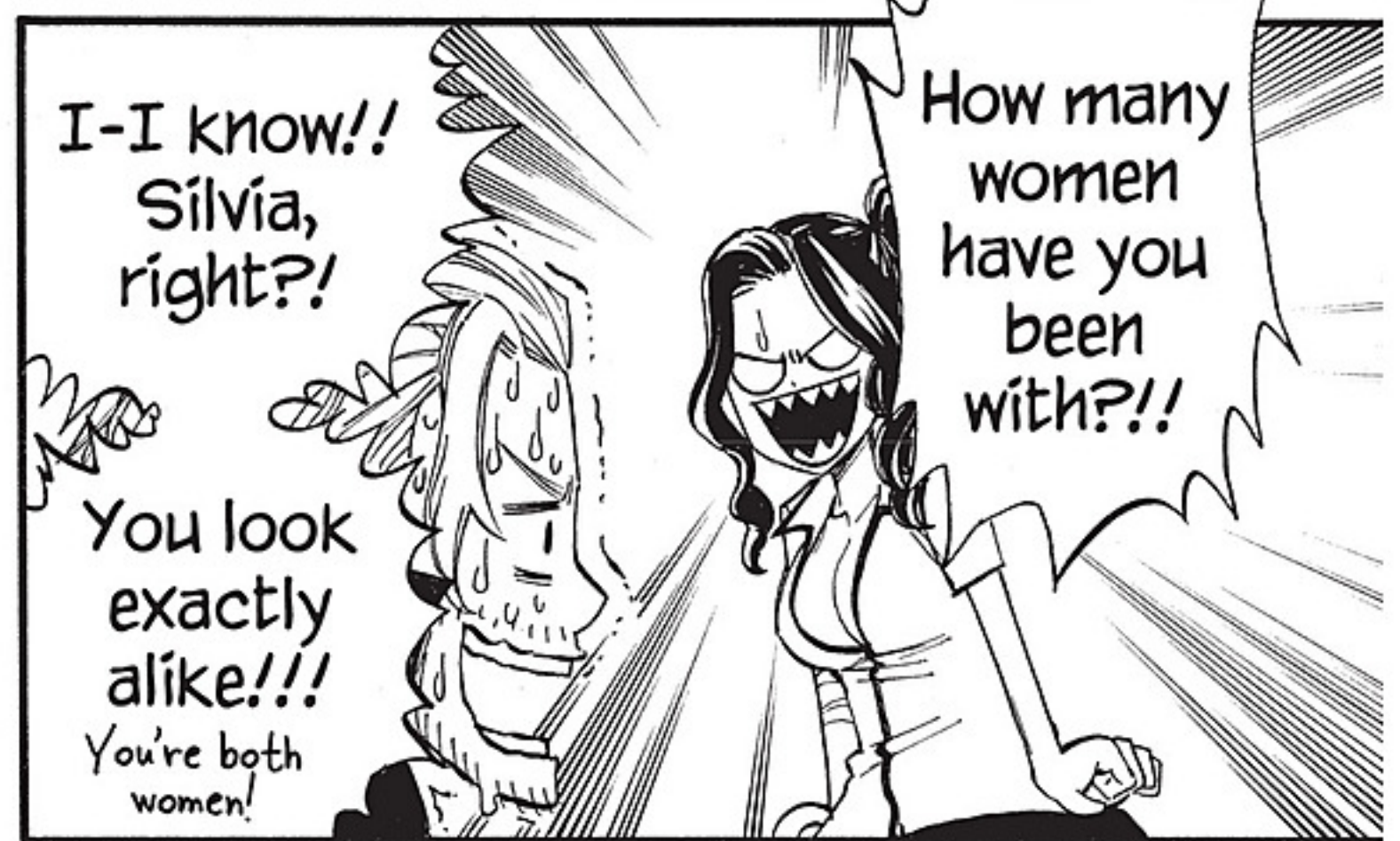
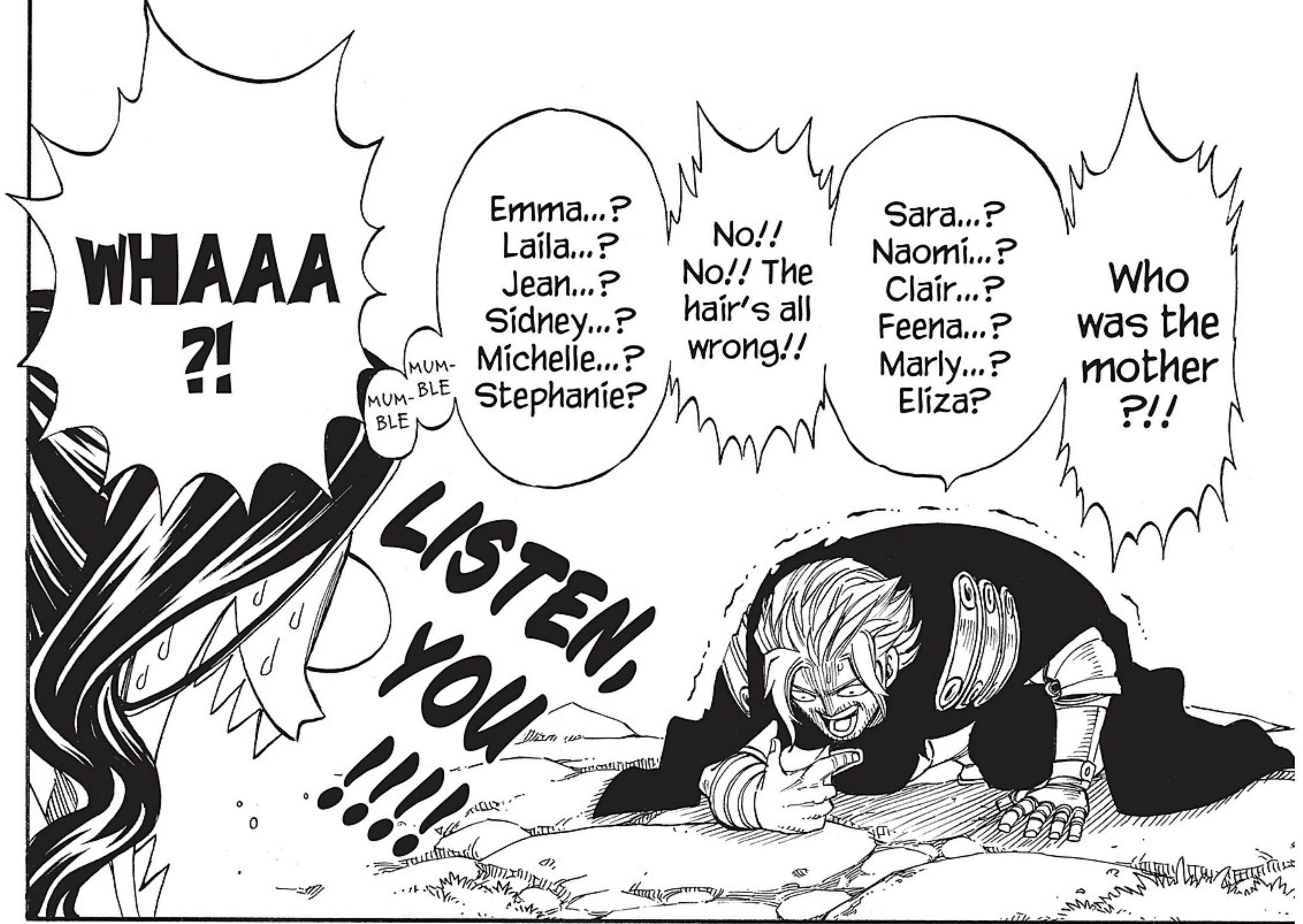


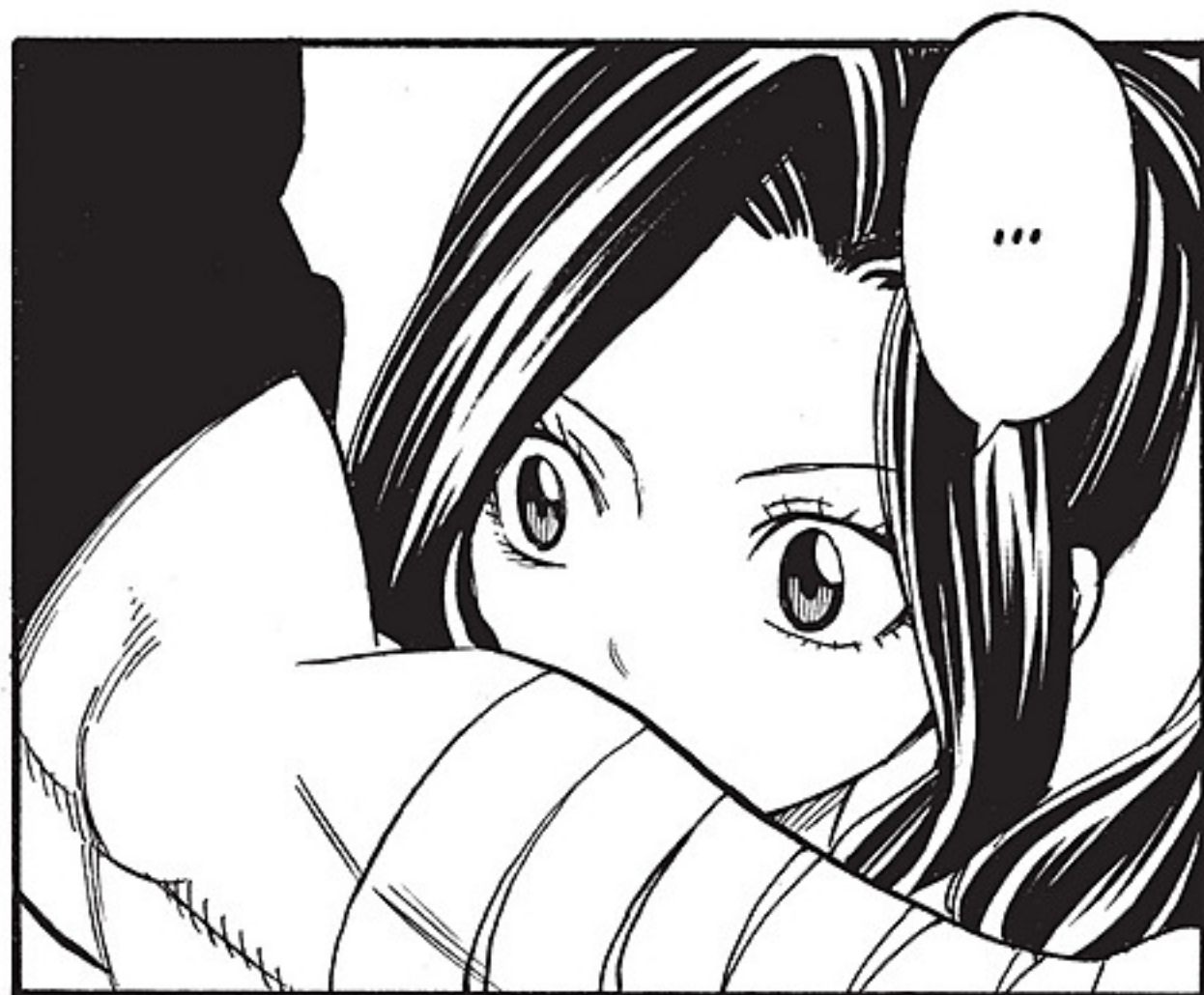
Wait...
Hold it...
You're...!!



Things
got
in the
way...

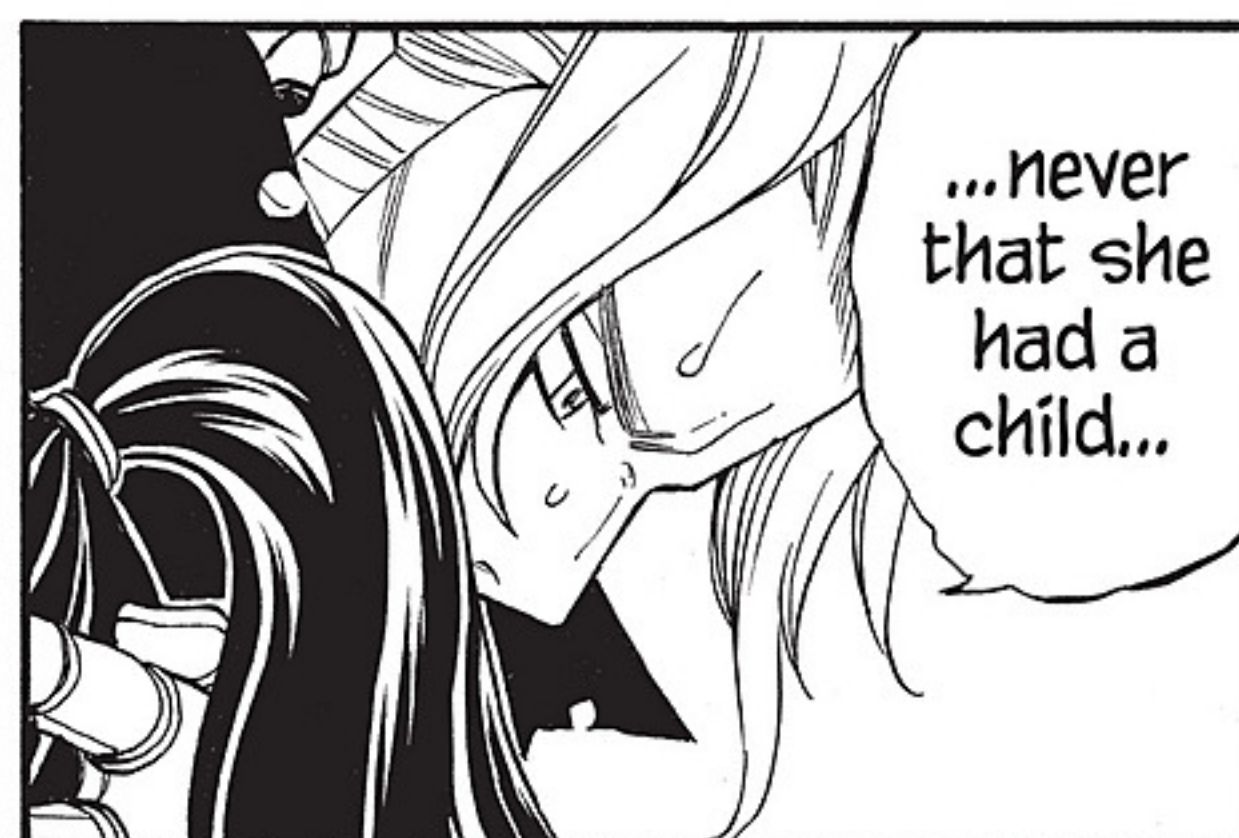
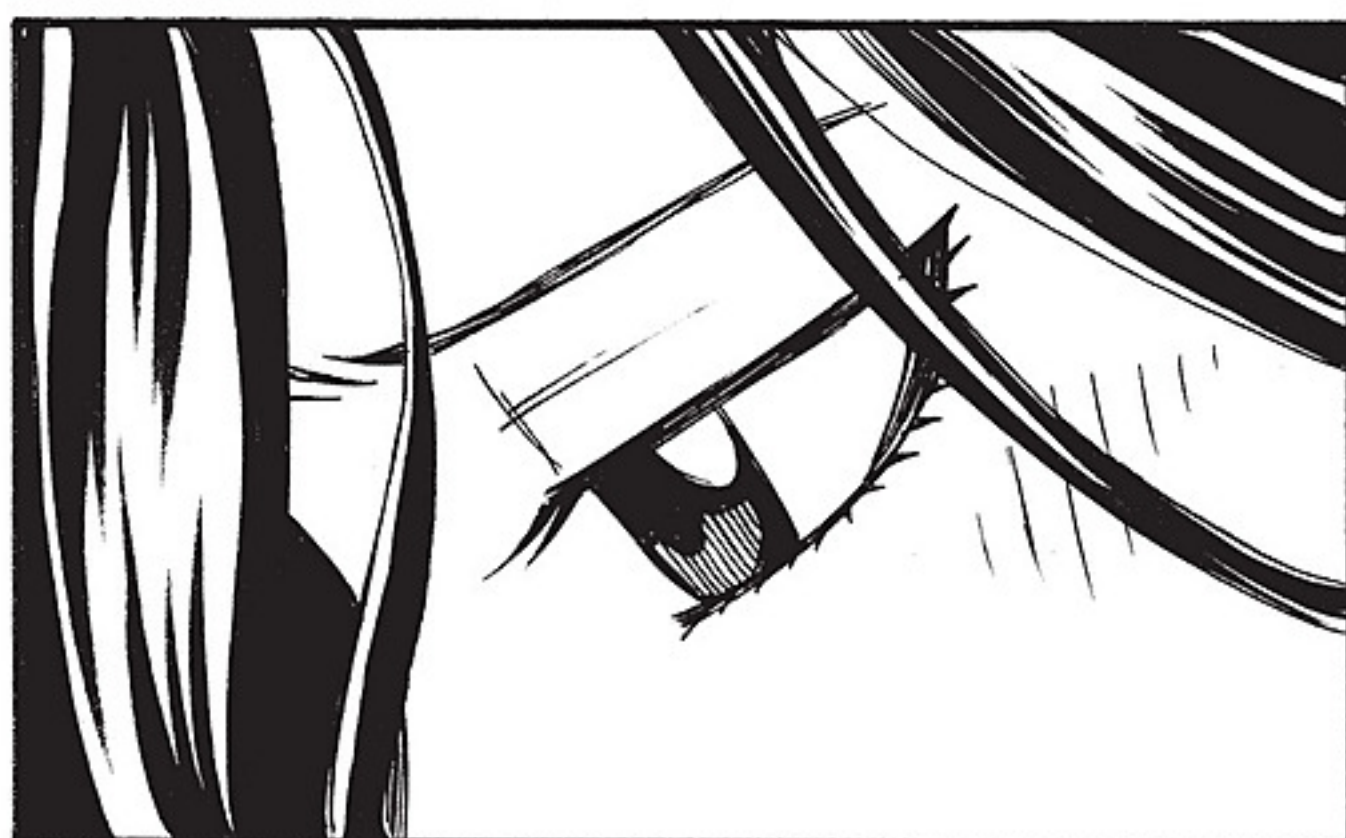
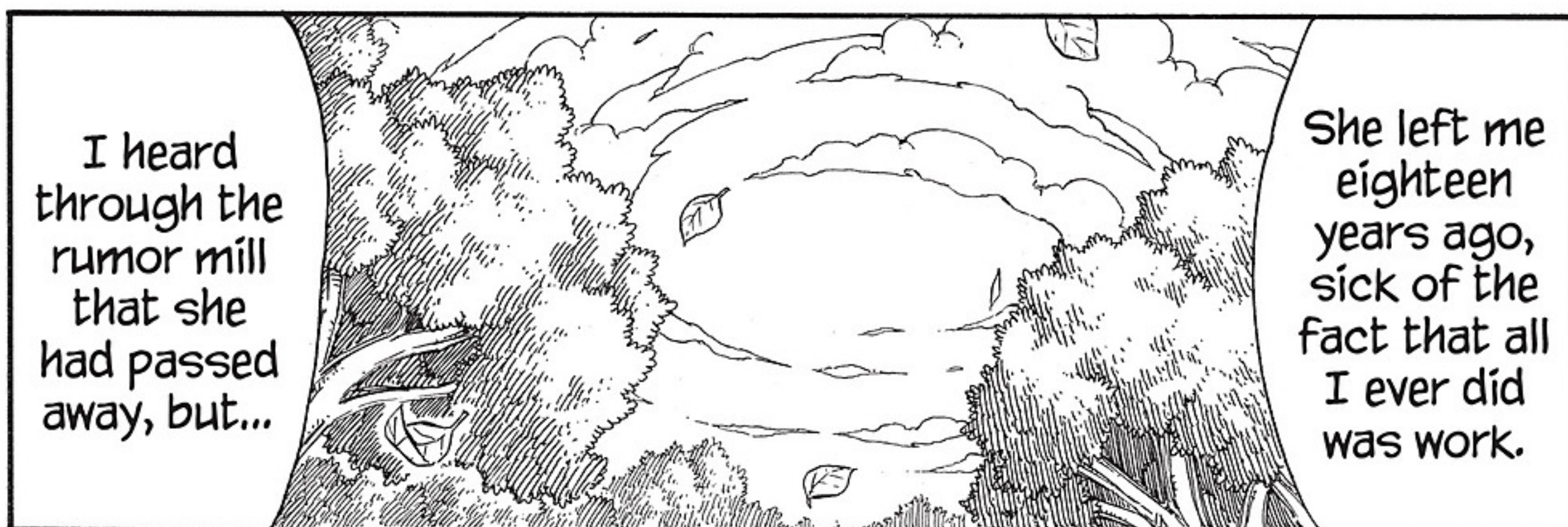
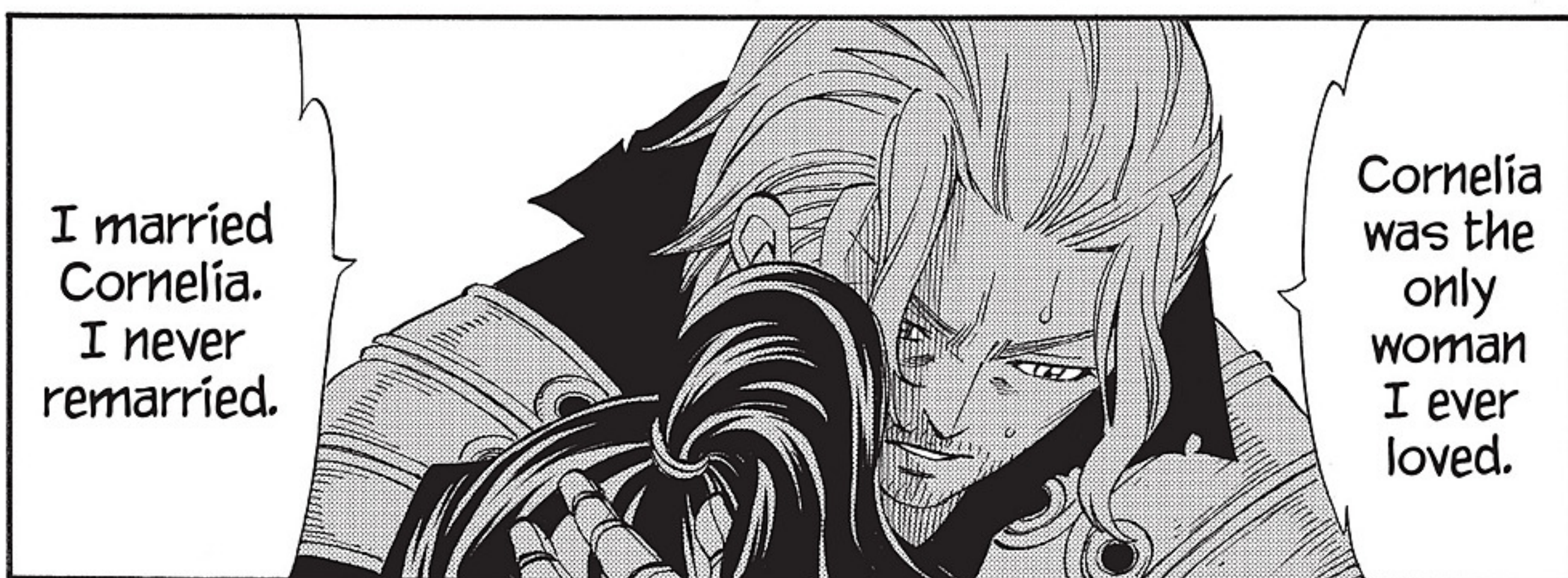
...and I
couldn't
bring myself
to say
anything
...

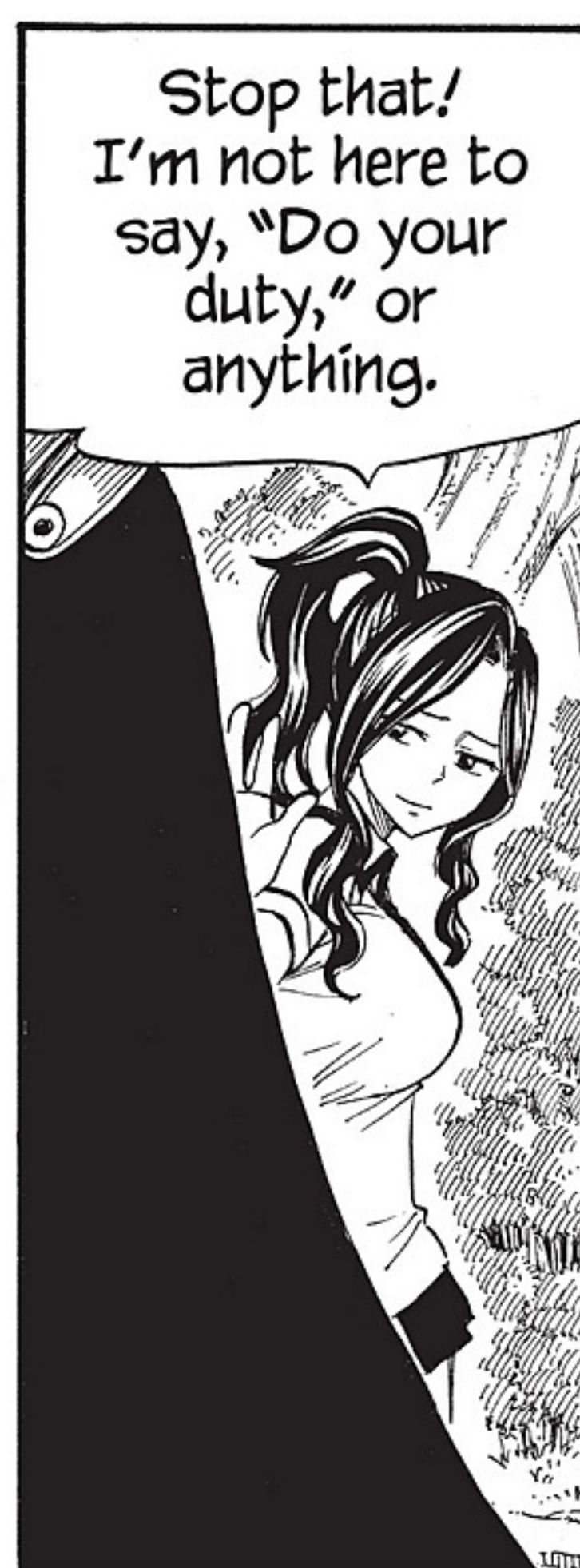
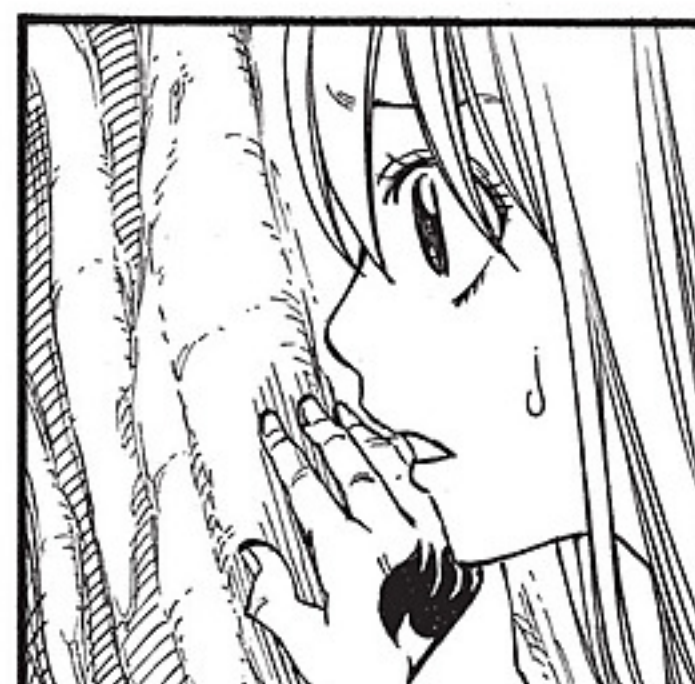
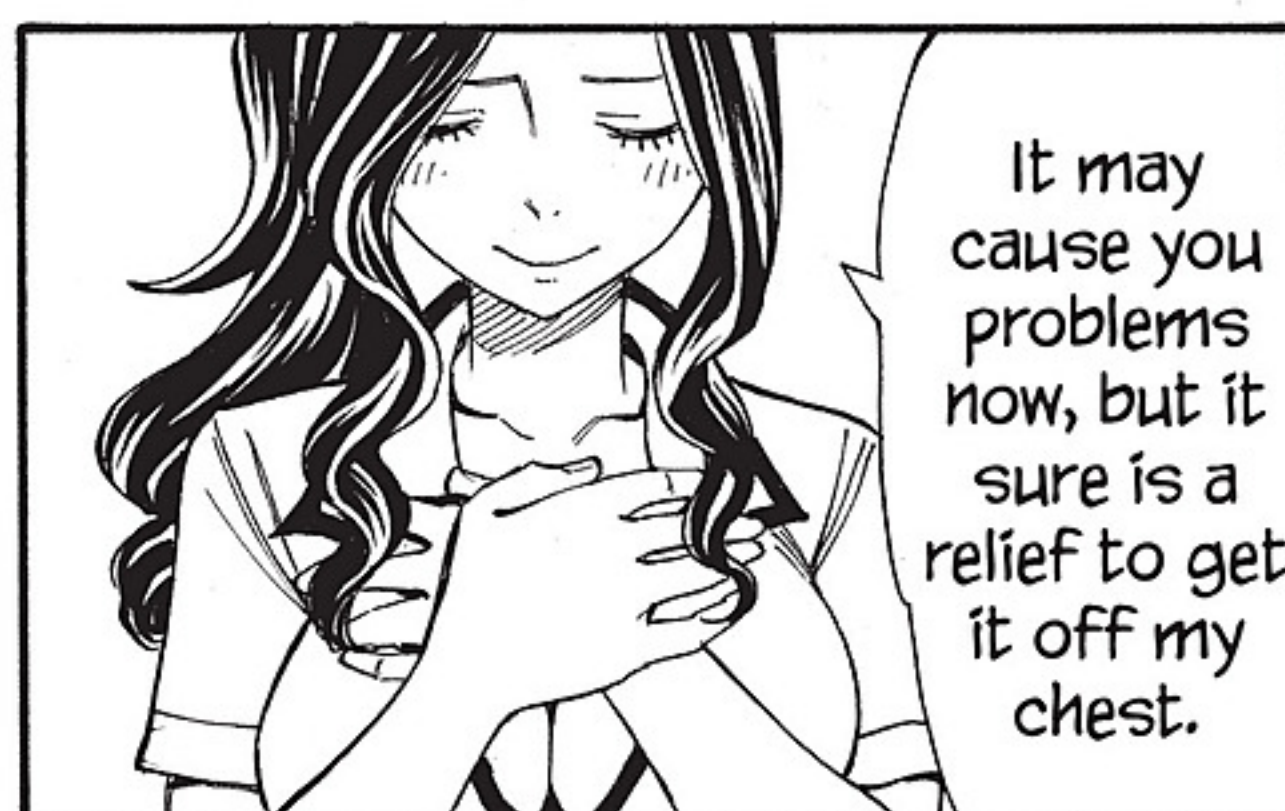
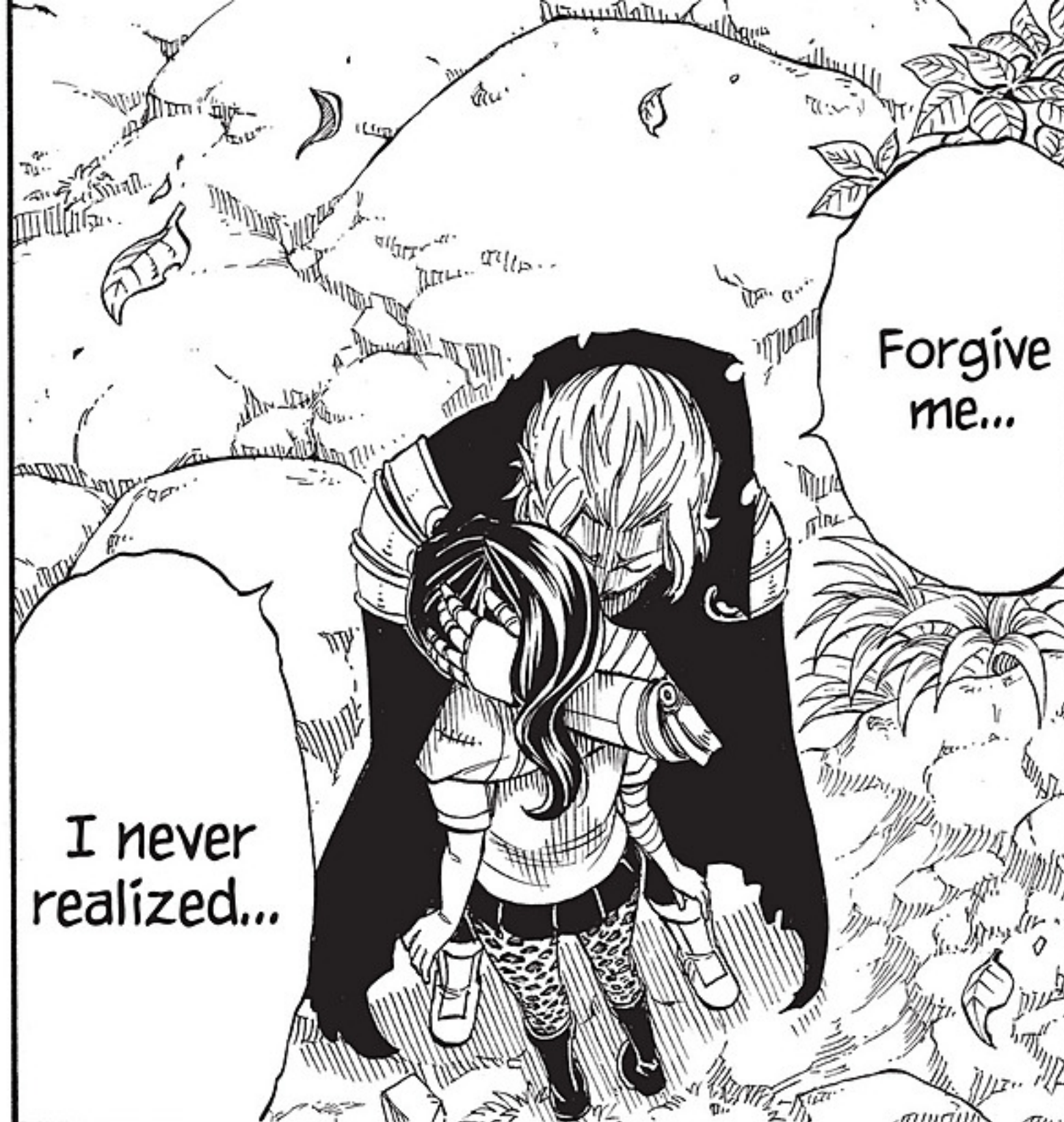


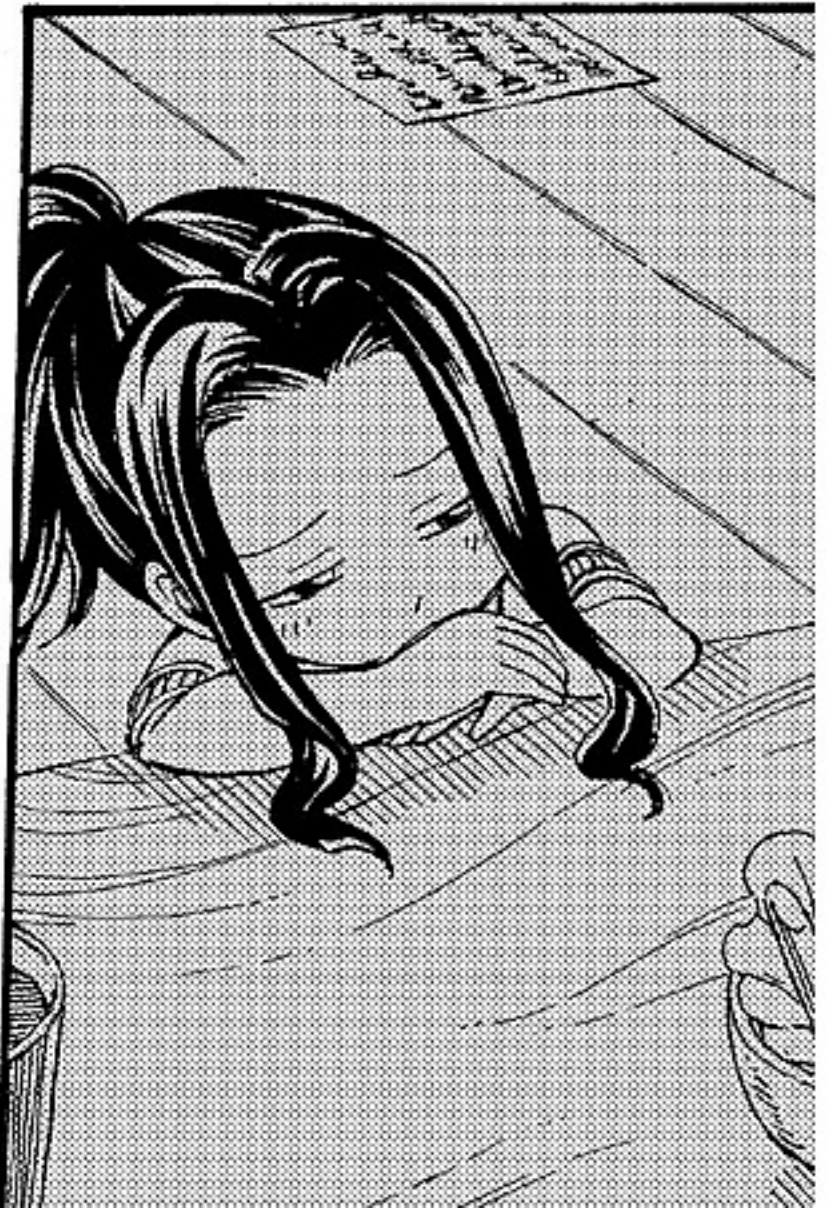
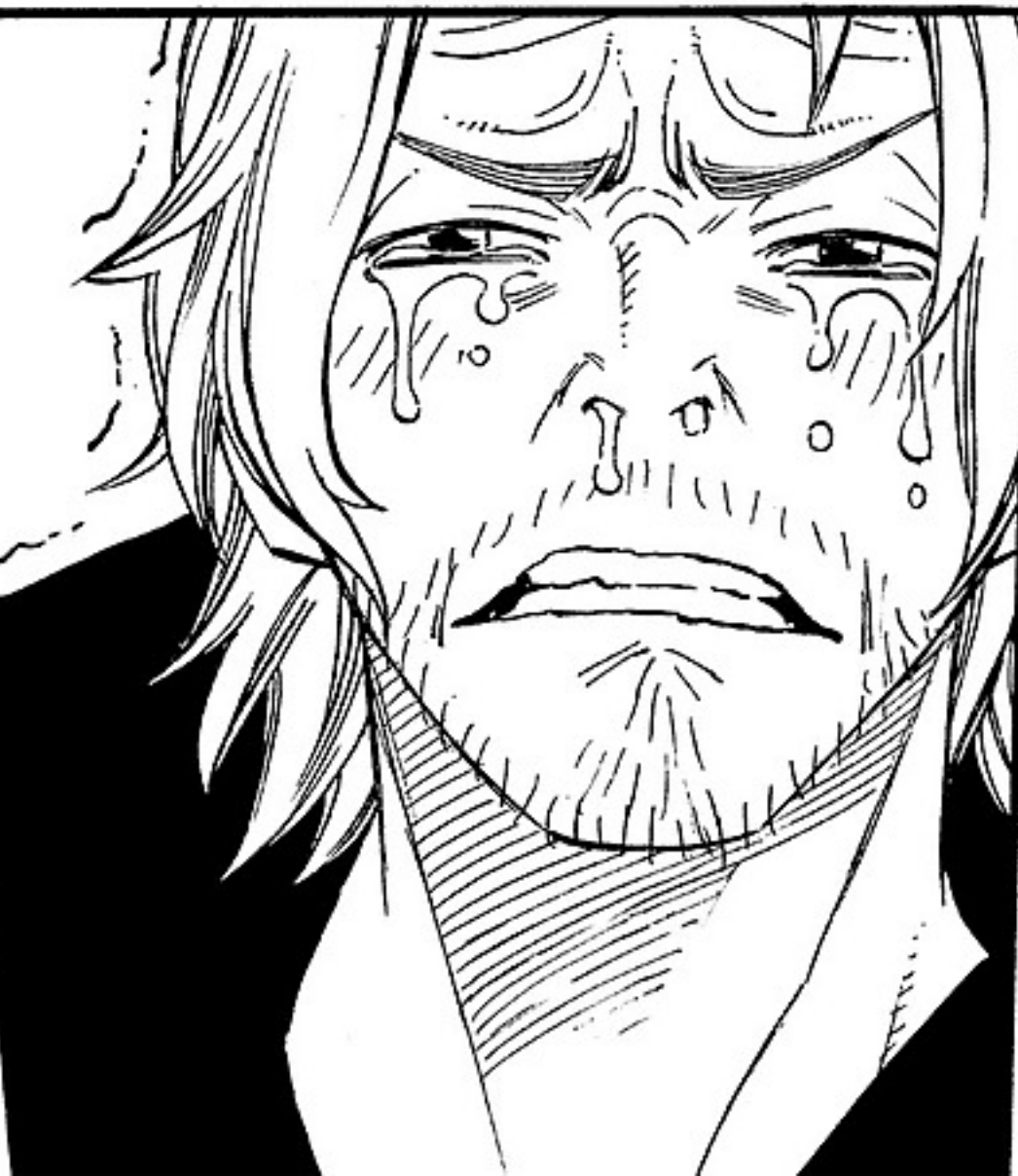
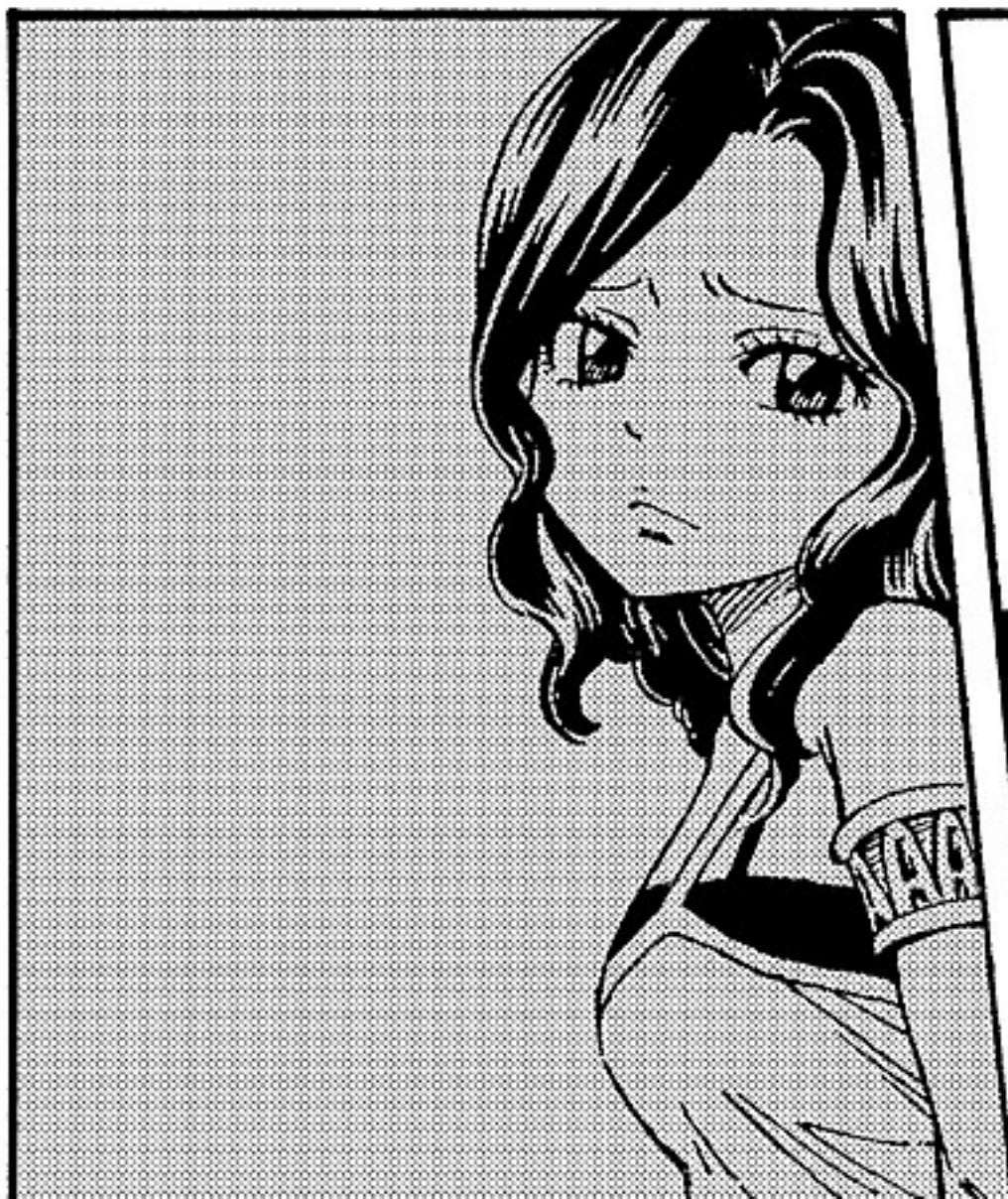
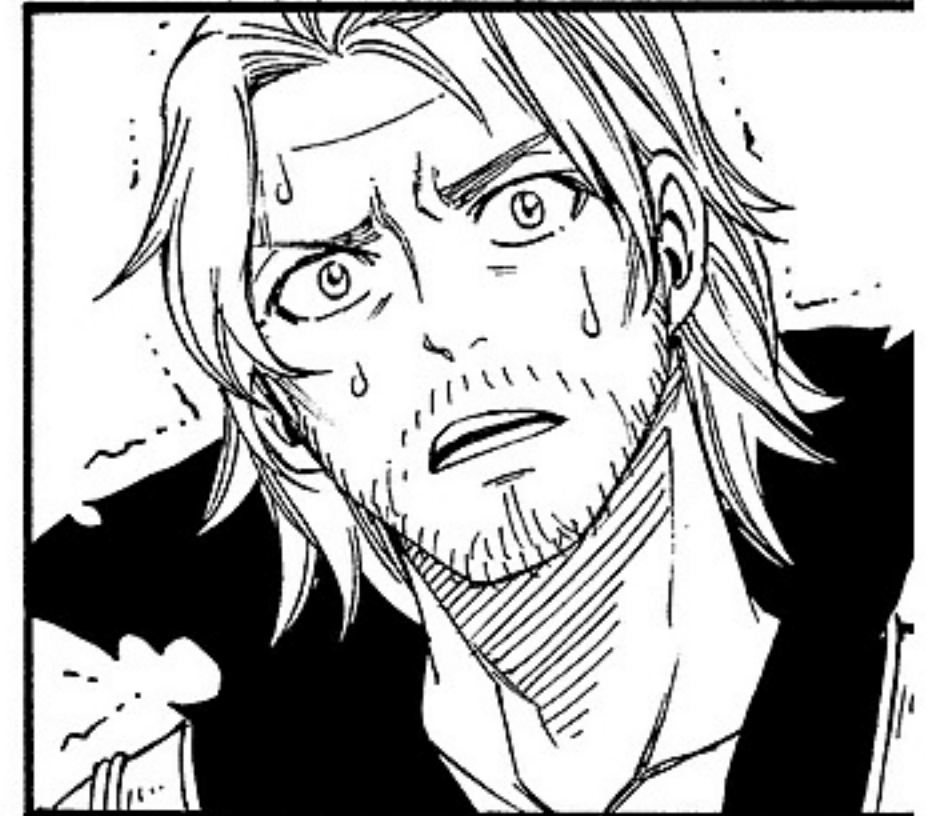
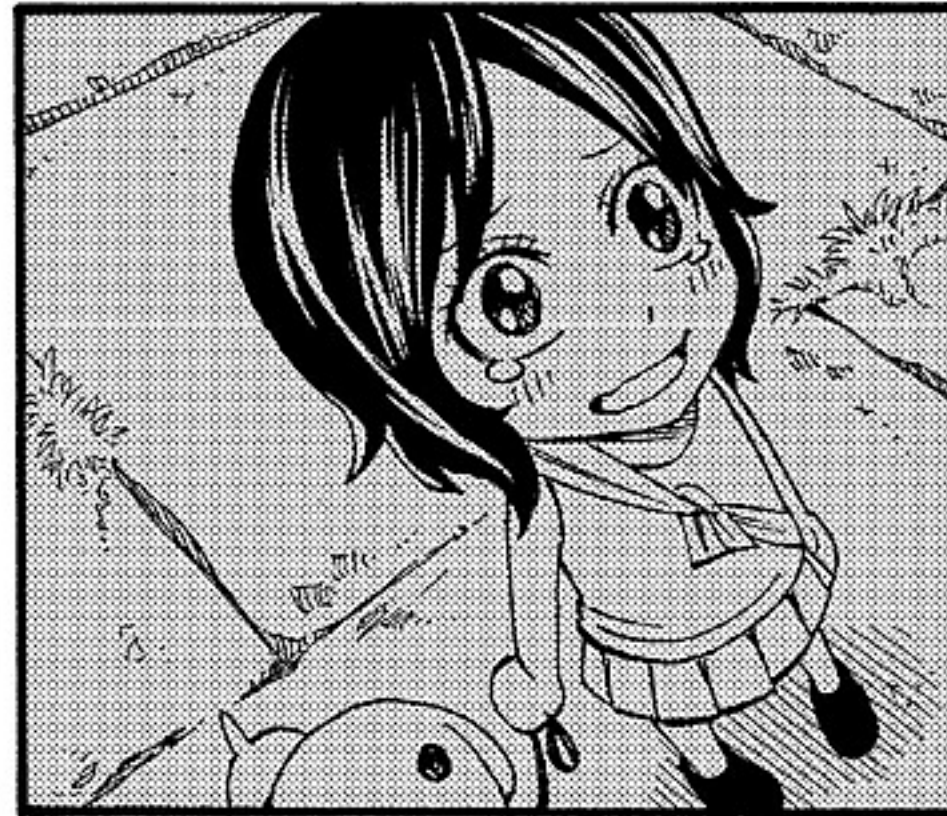
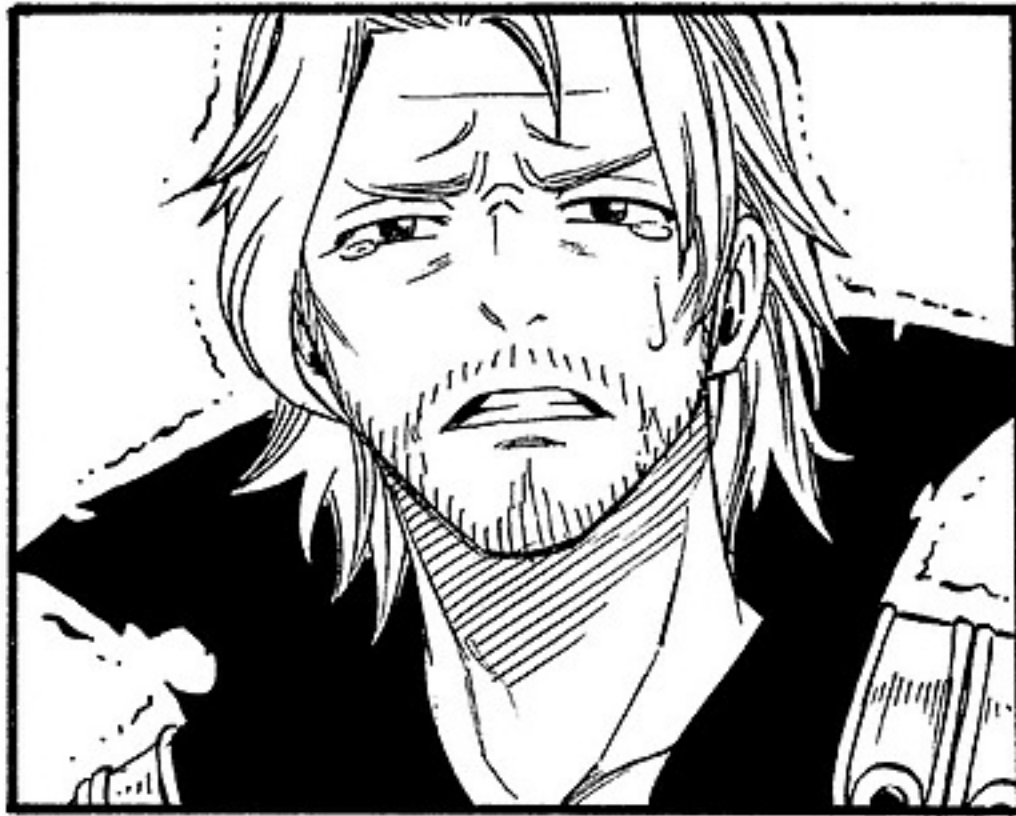


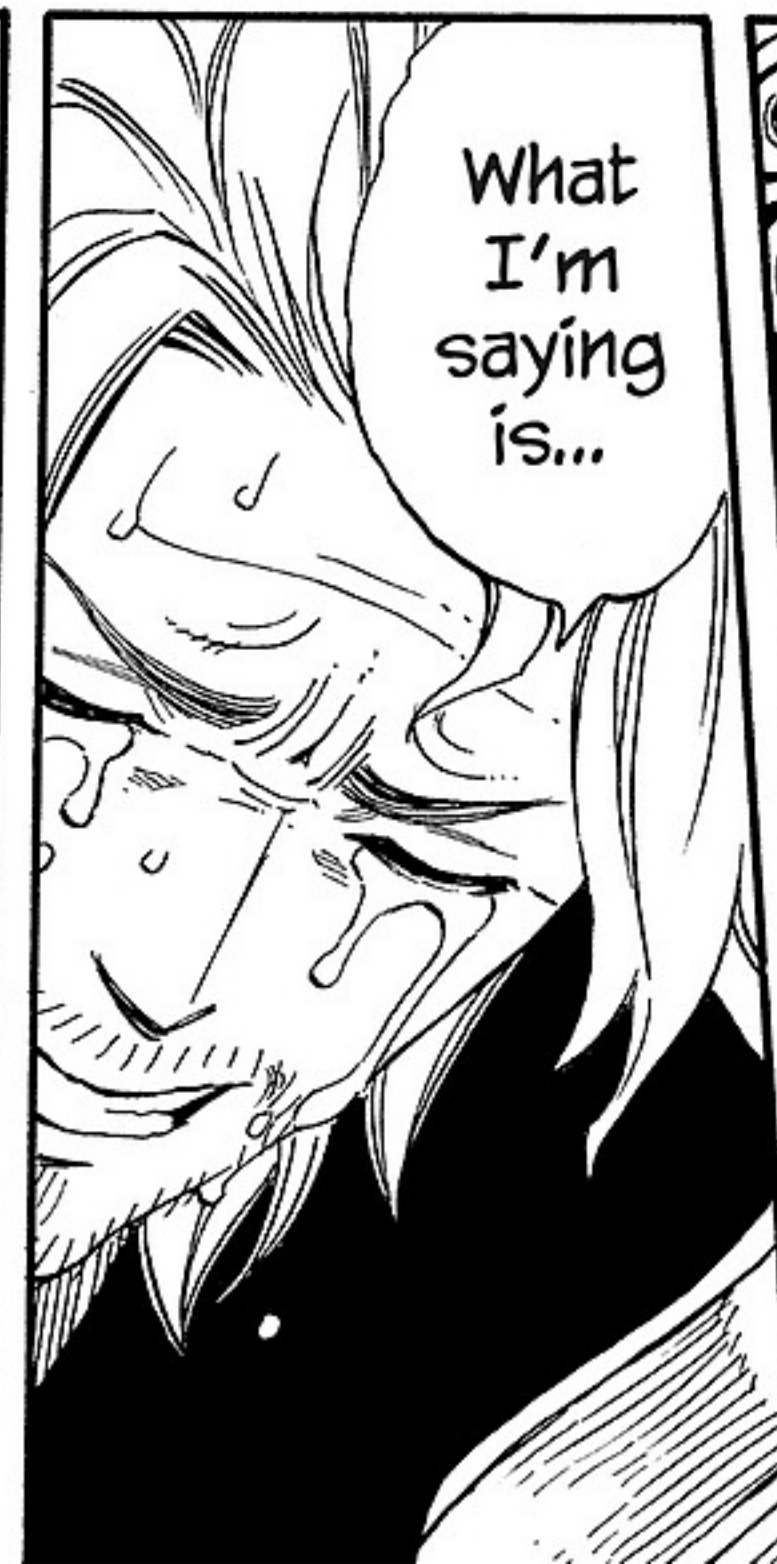
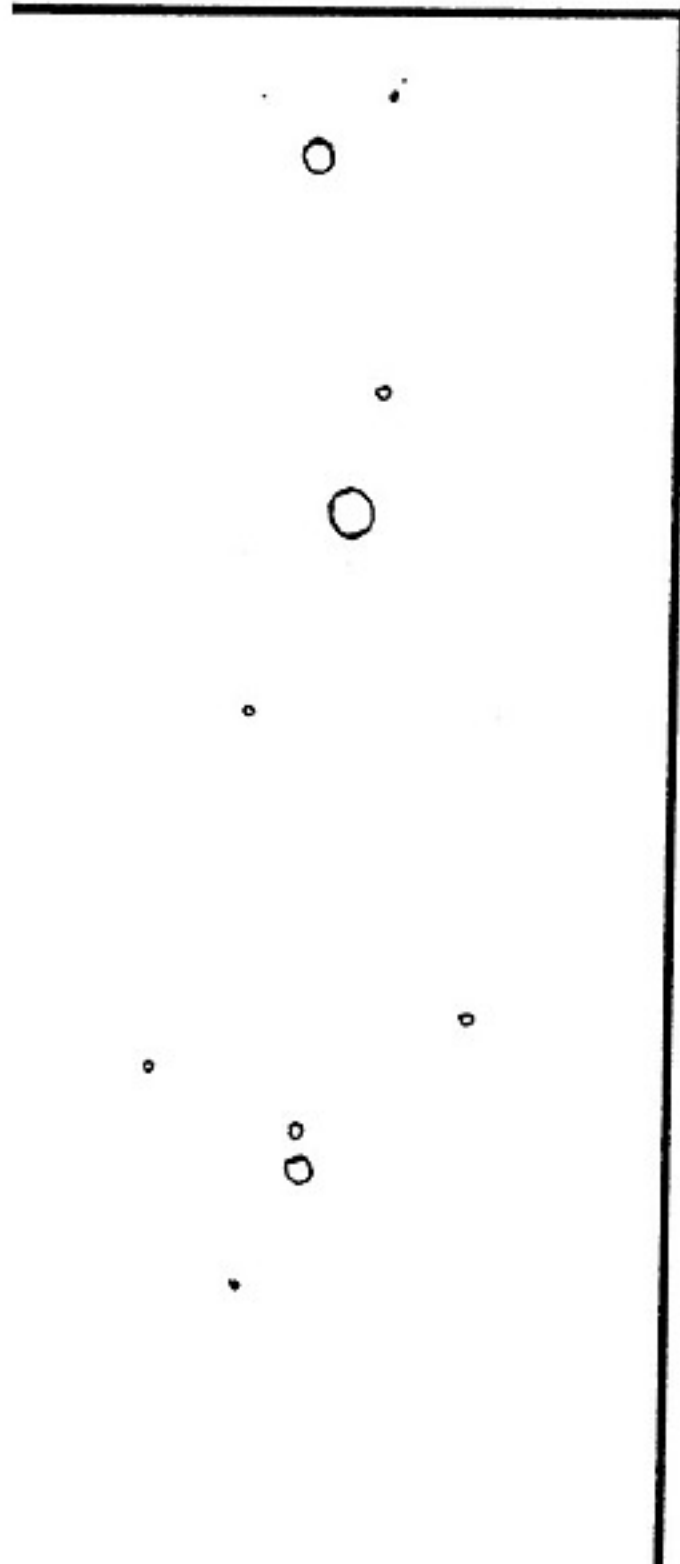
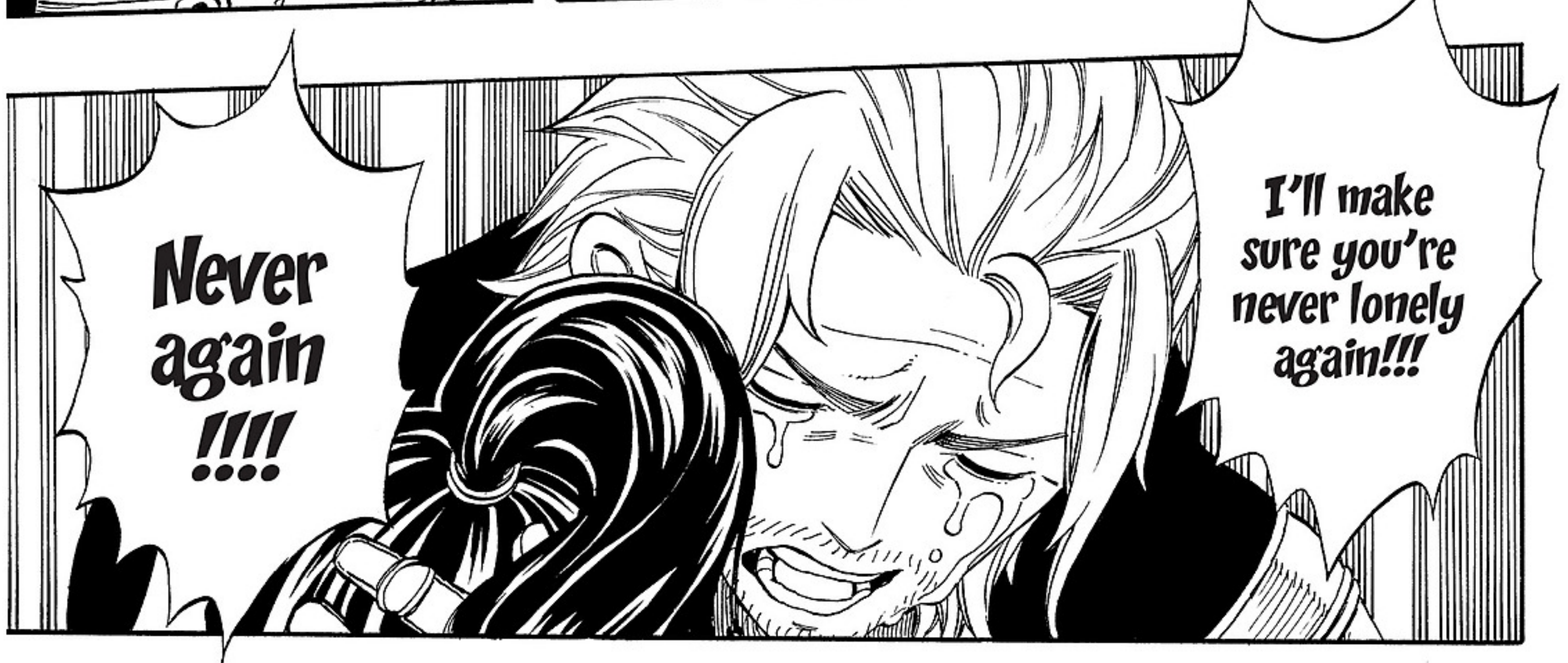
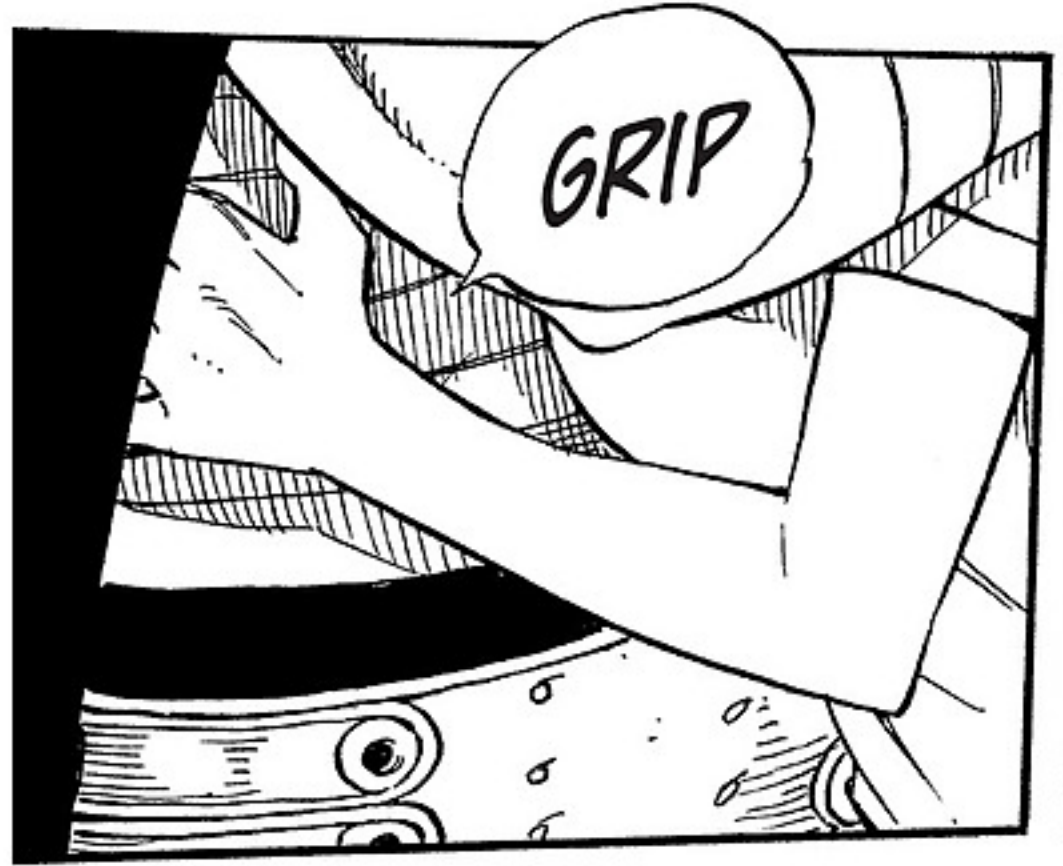
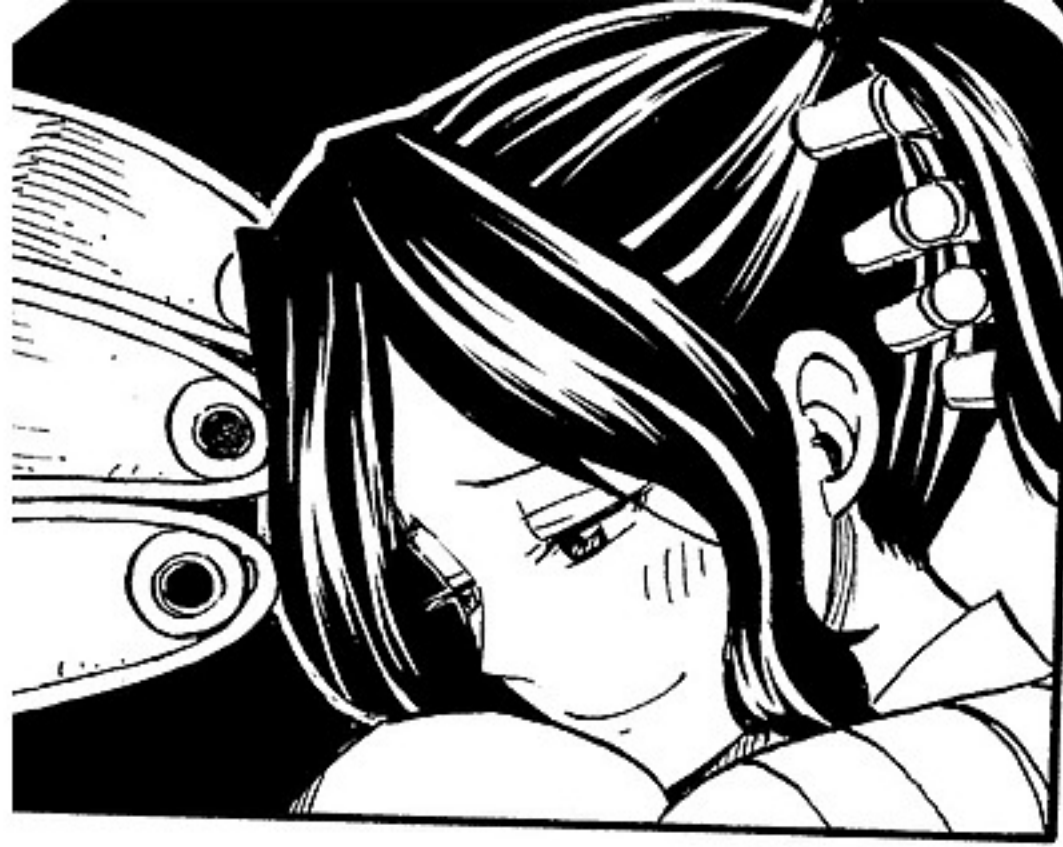


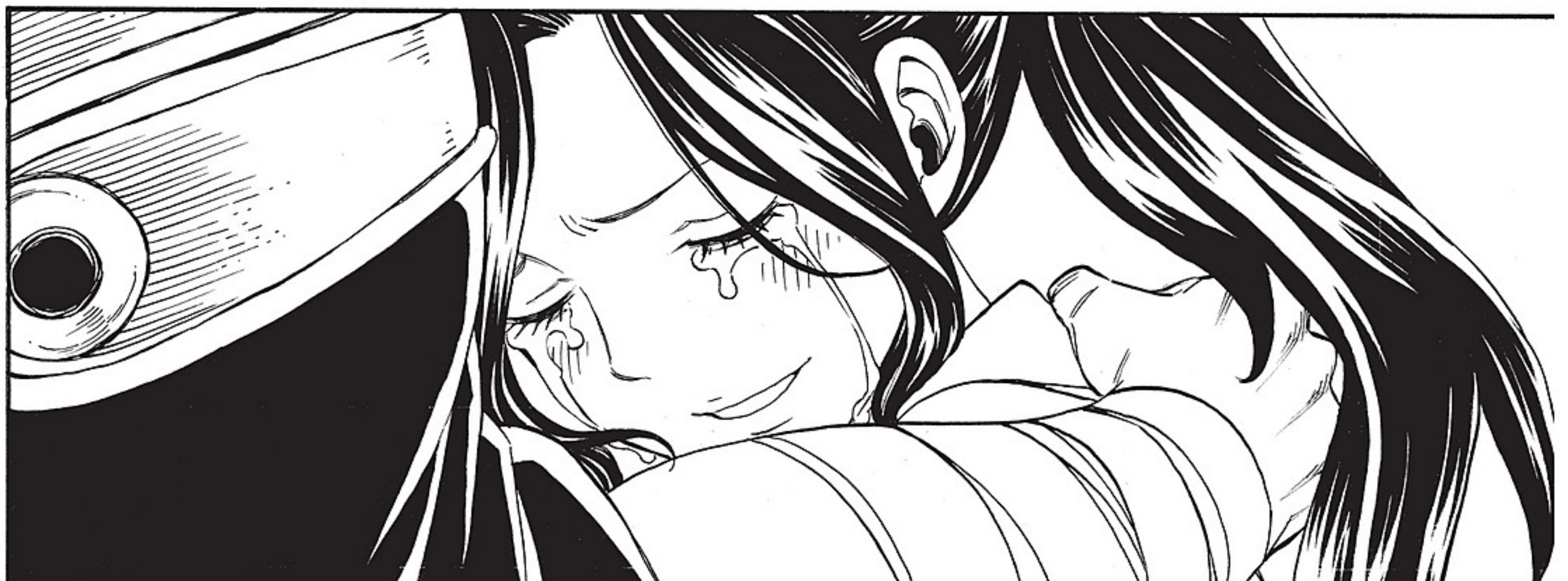
It was hard to just come out and say it.





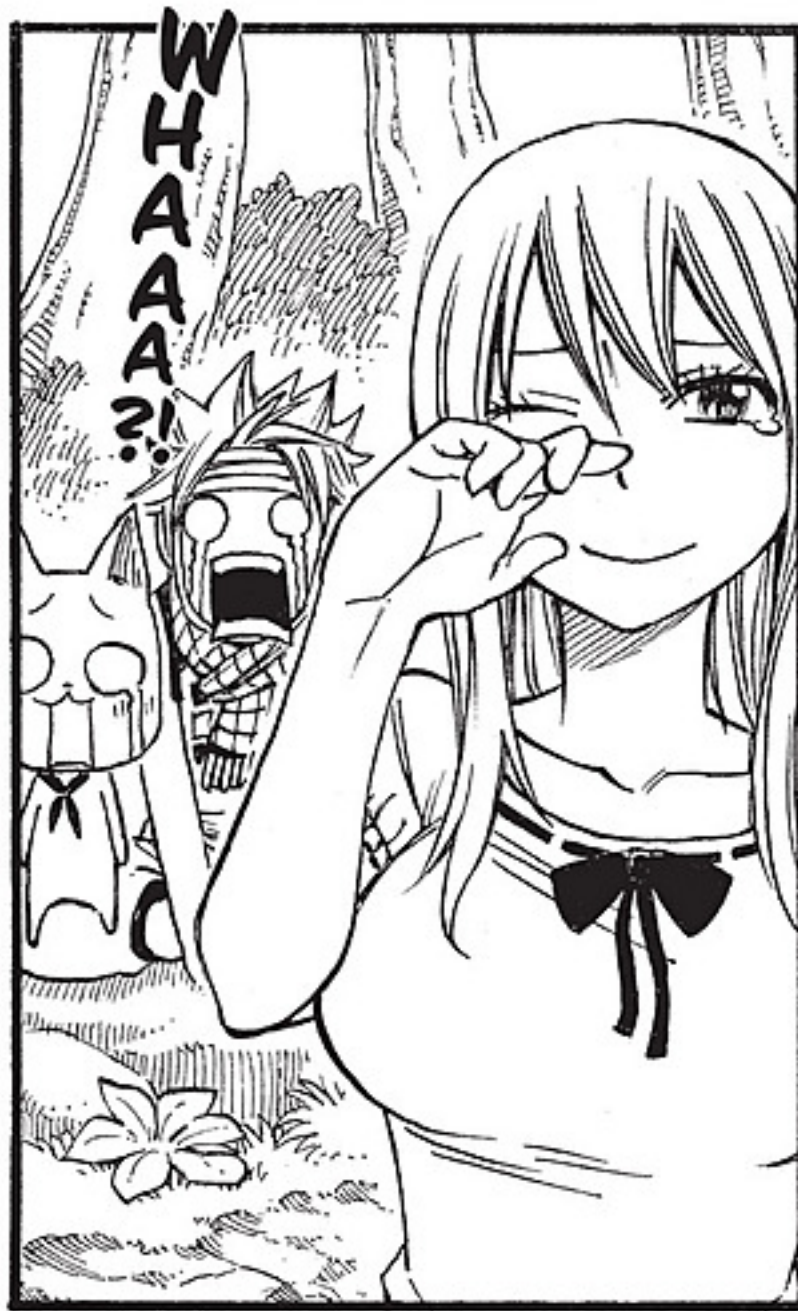




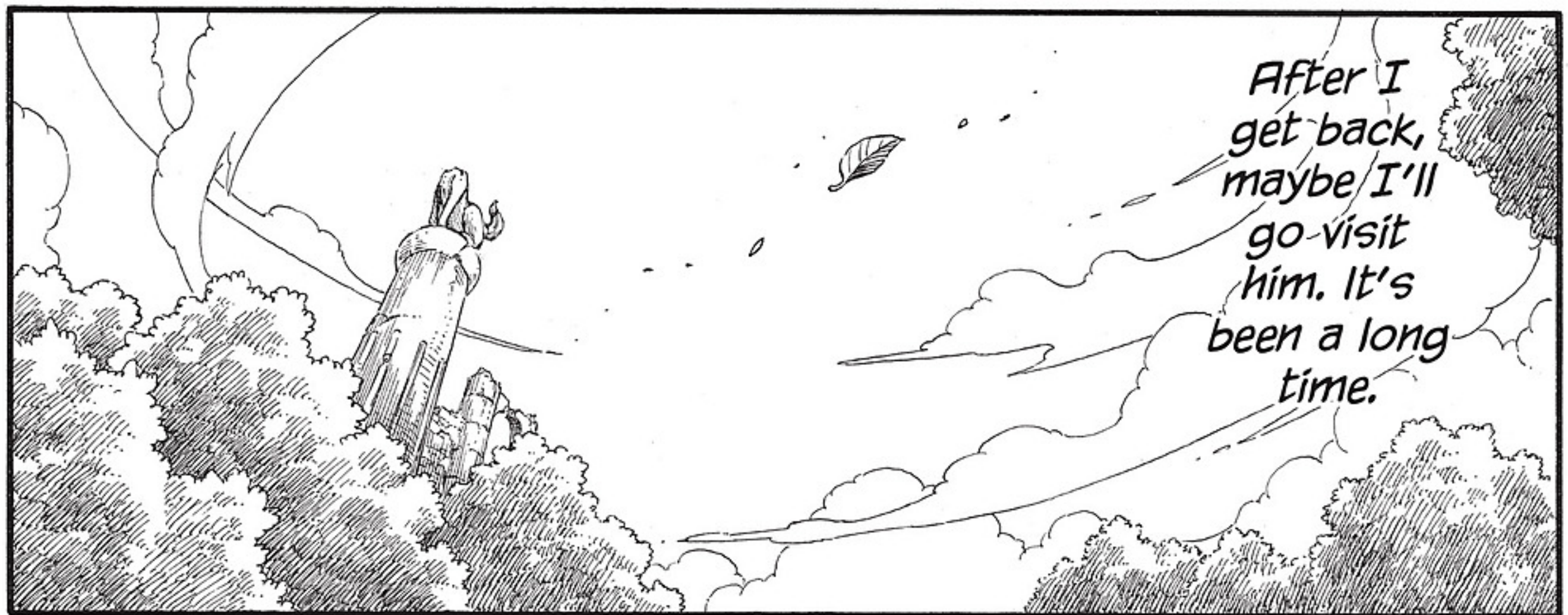
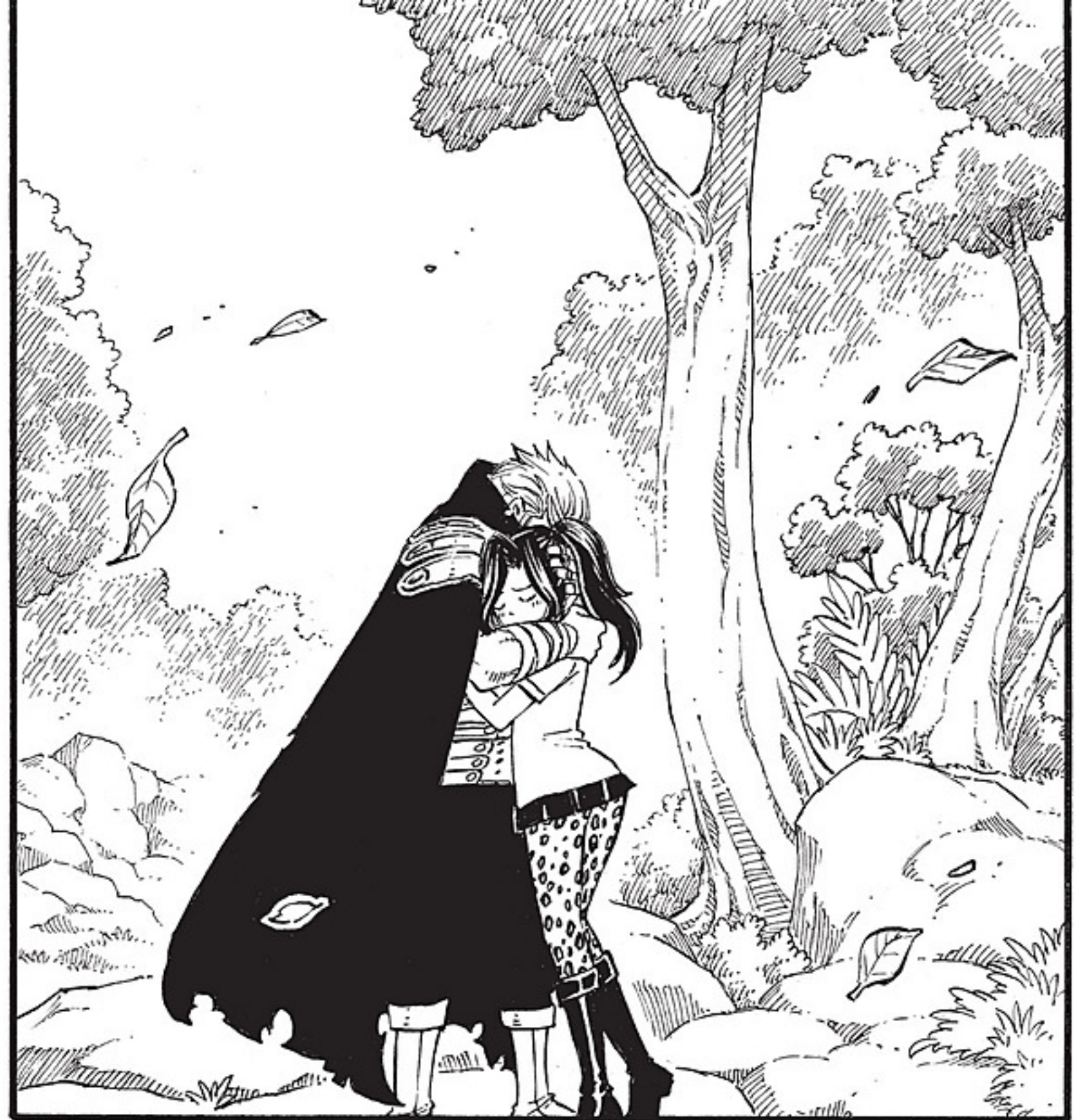




"Father"...
huh?



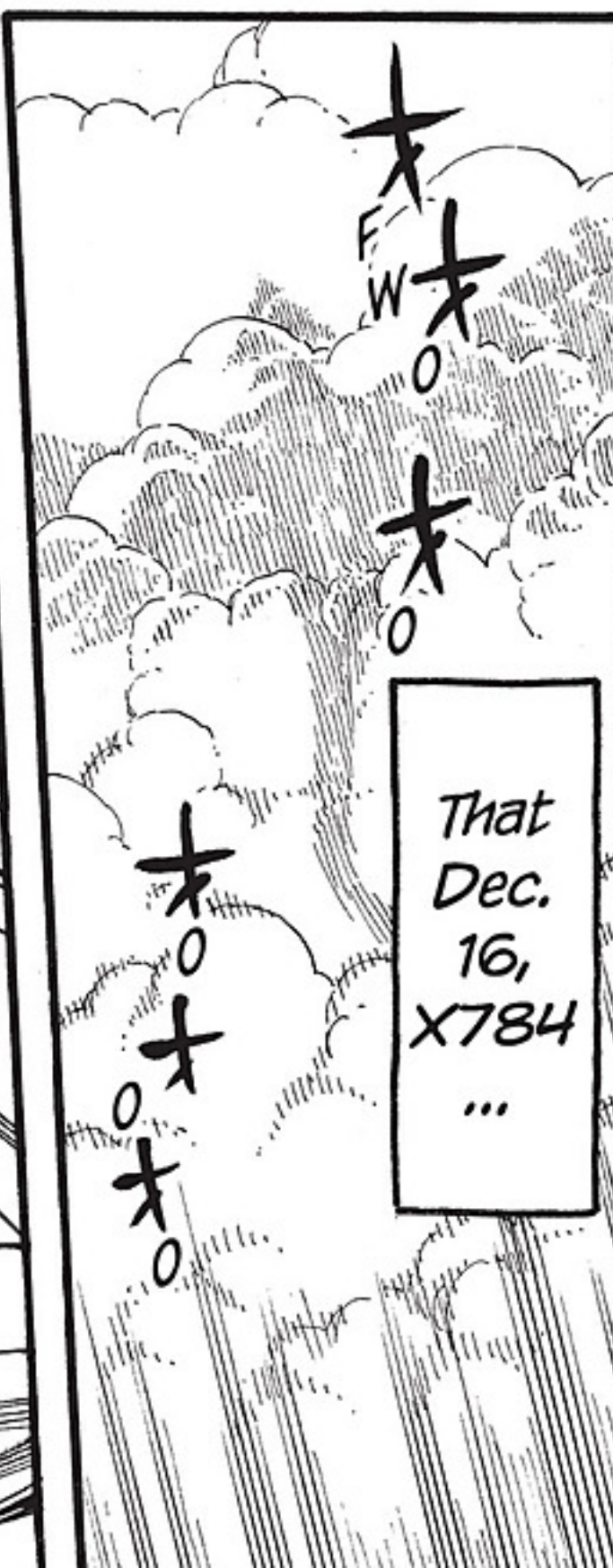
W
H
A
A
A
?!



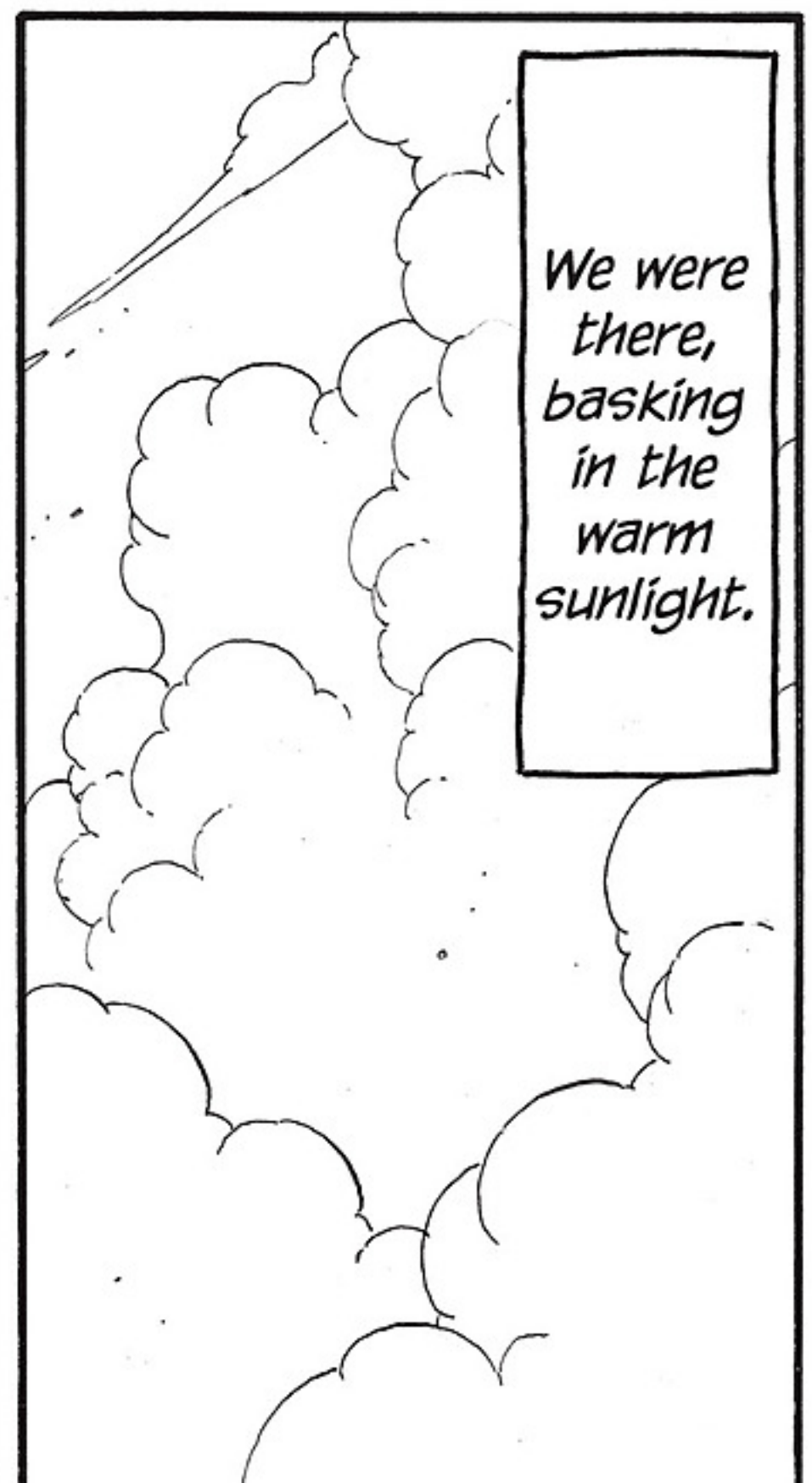
After I
get back,
maybe I'll
go visit
him. It's
been a long
time.



On
Sirius
Island
...



That
Dec.
16,
X784
...

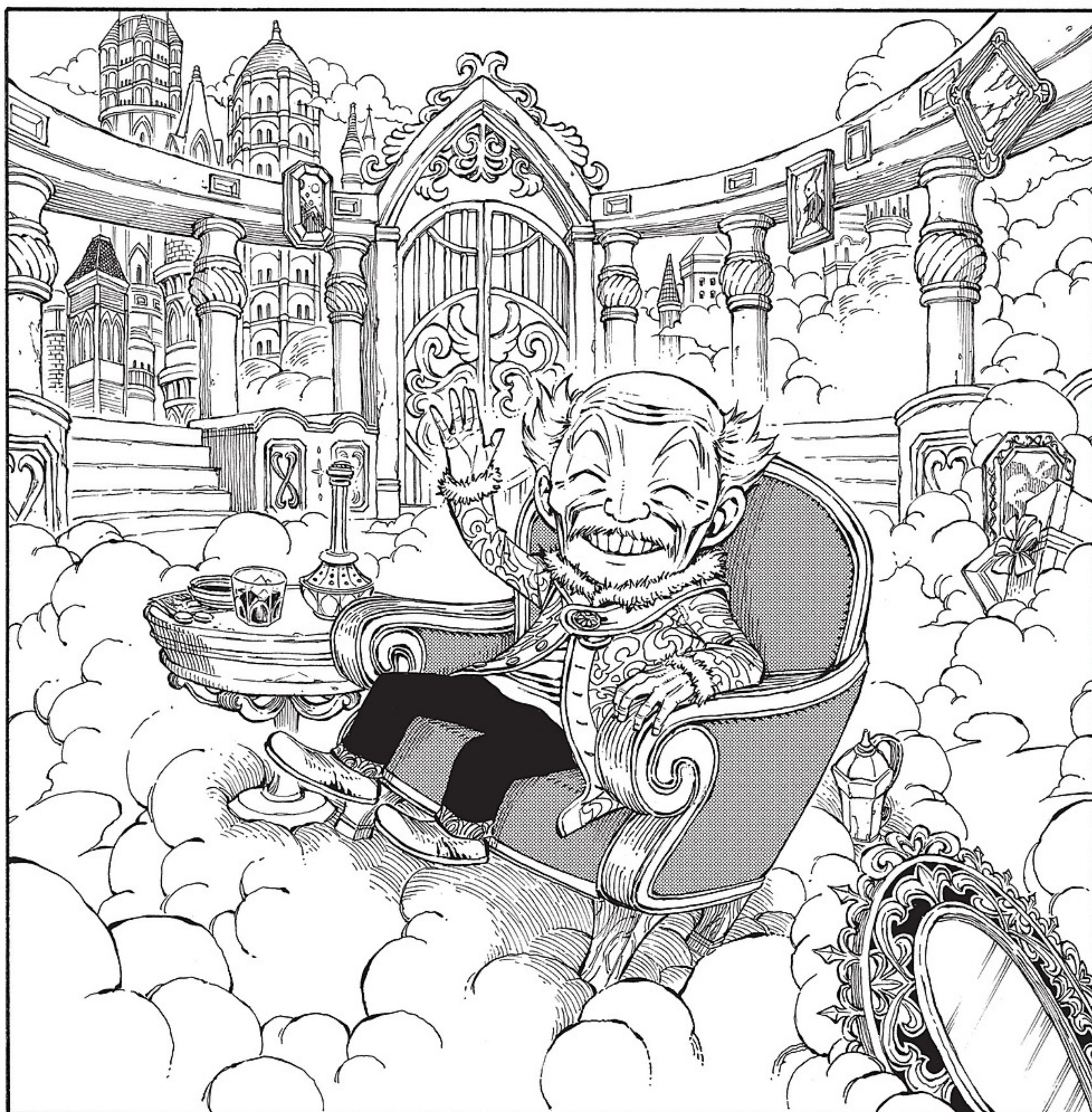


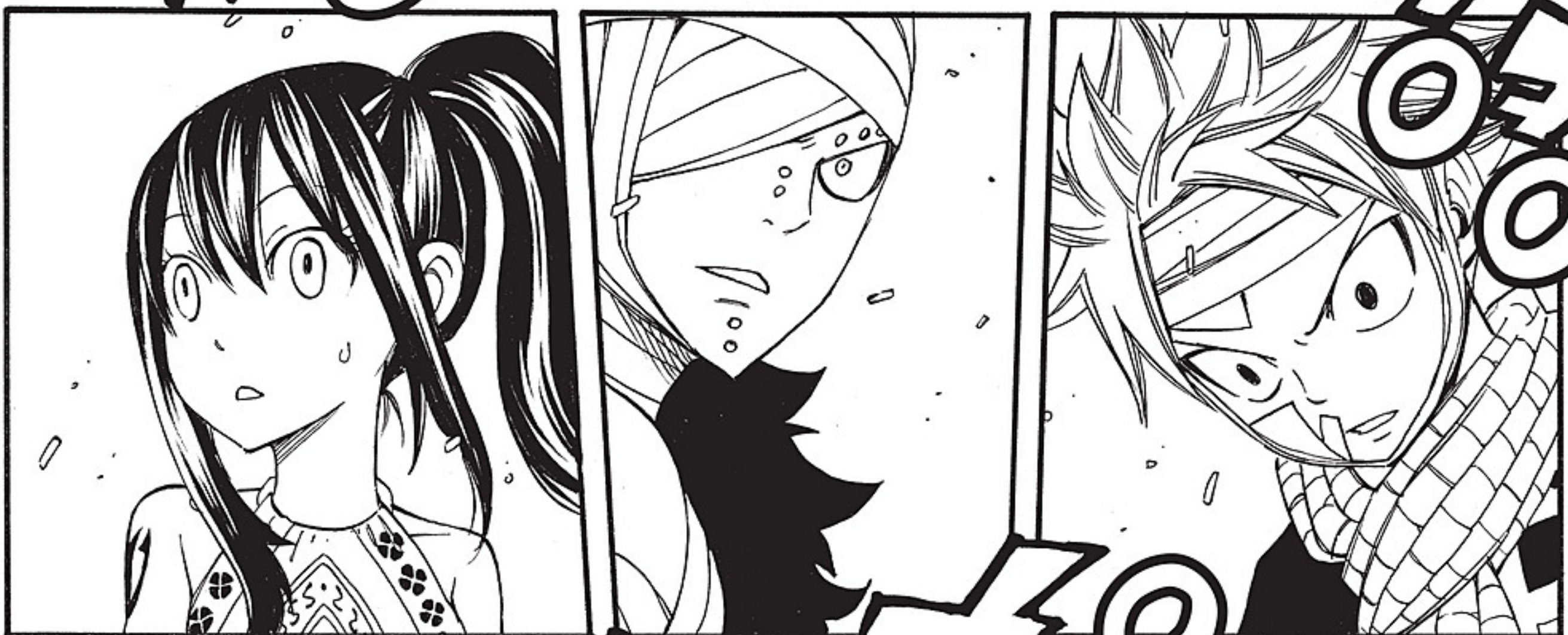
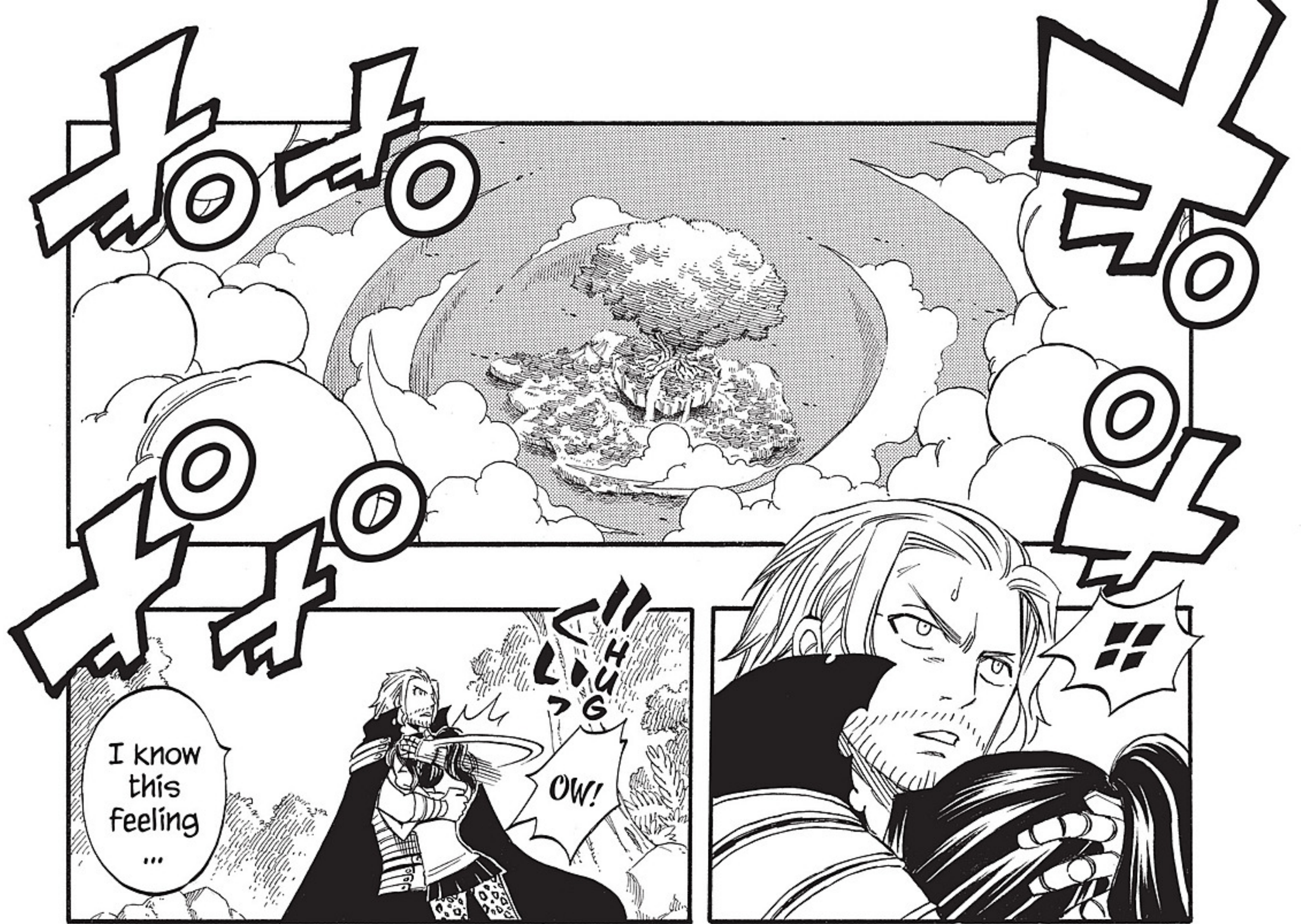
We were
there,
basking
in the
warm
sunlight.

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 252: To You Prideful Brats

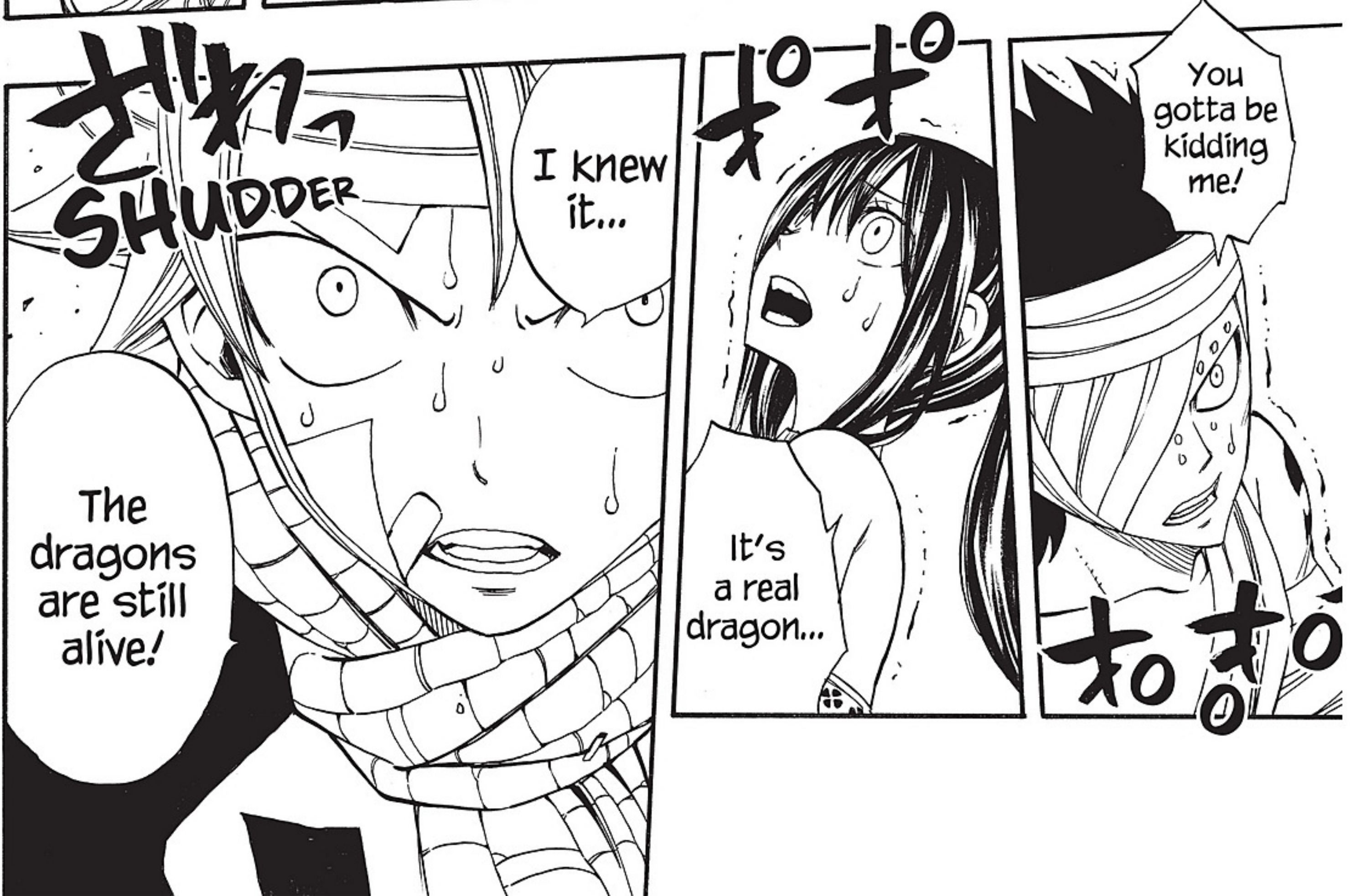
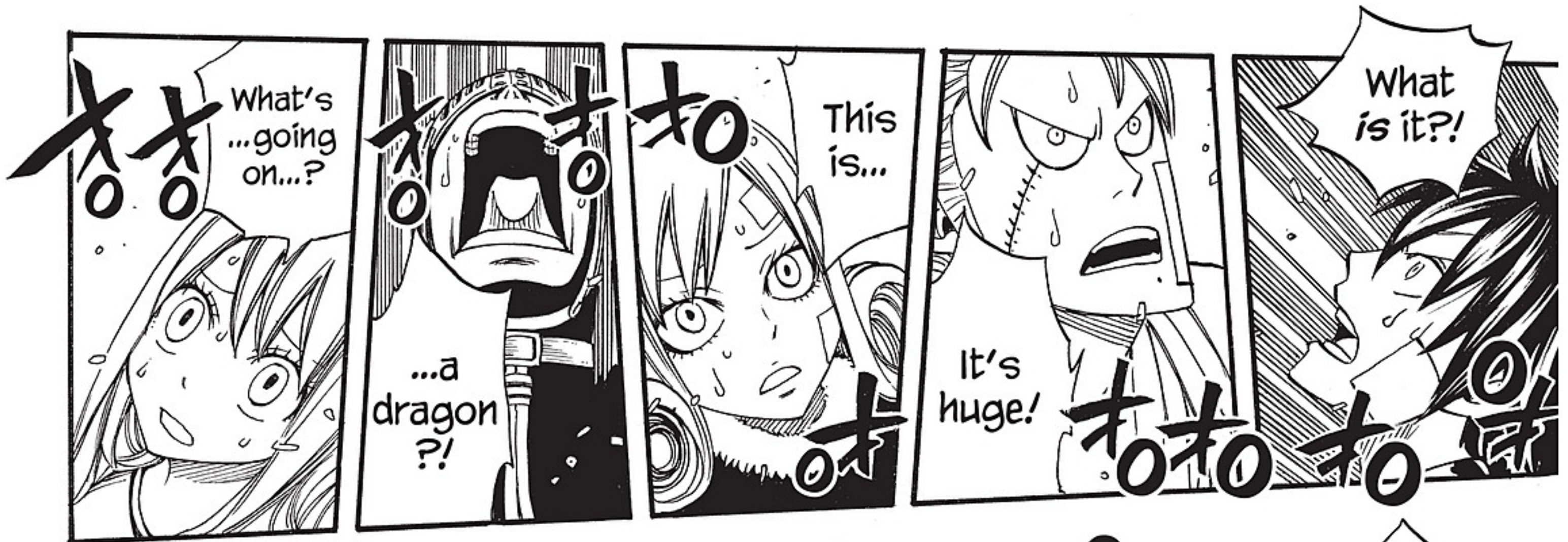
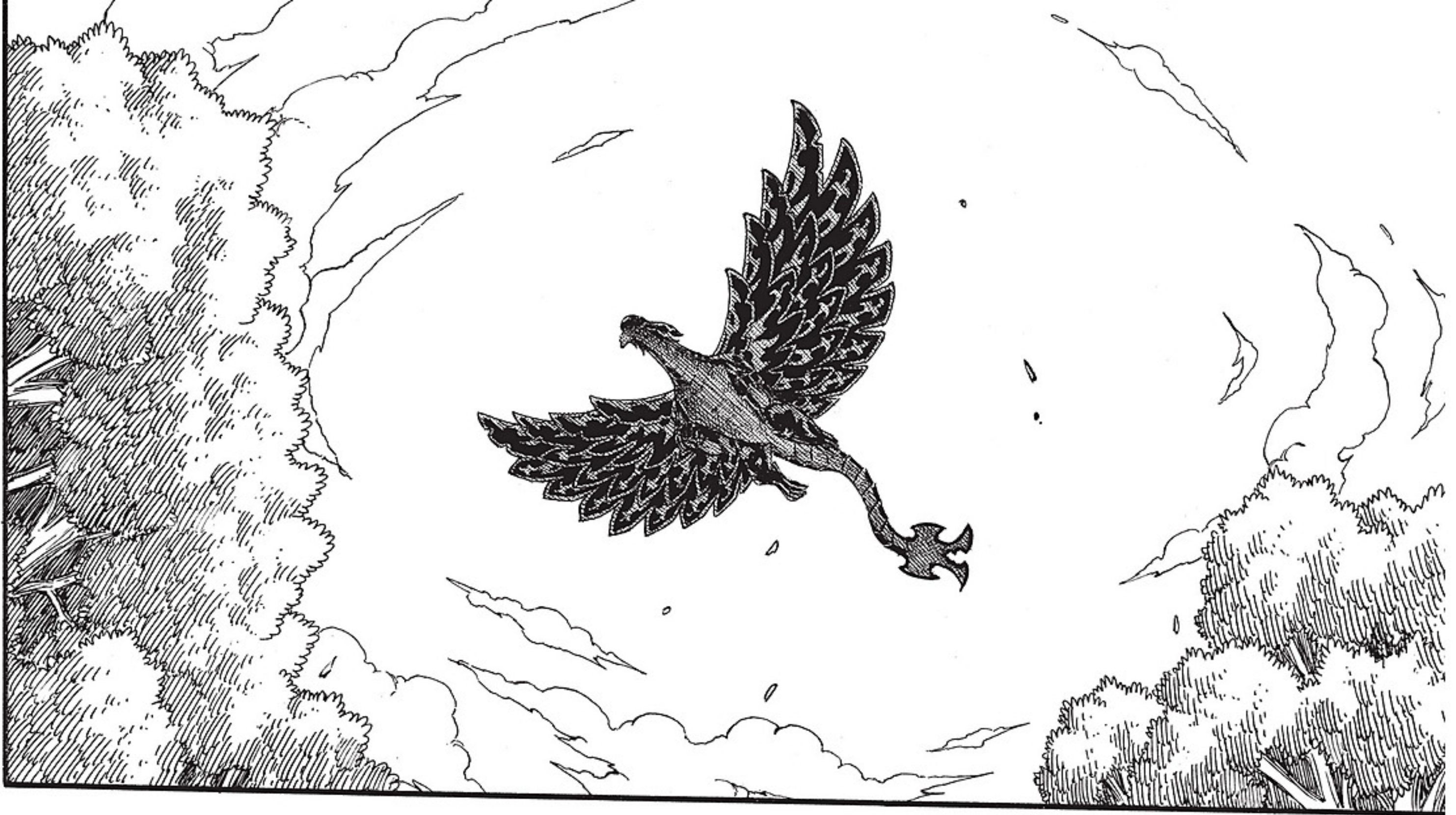


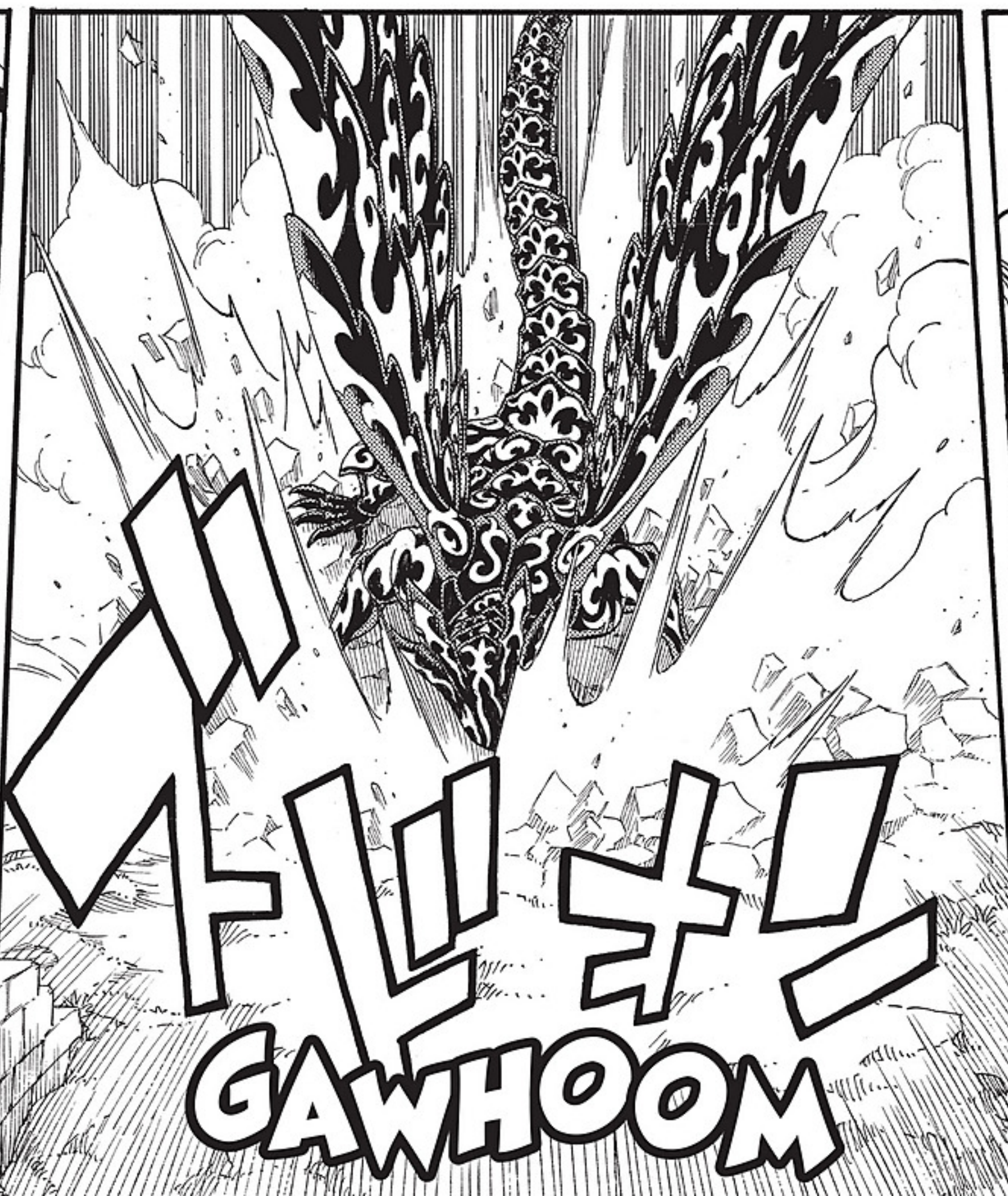
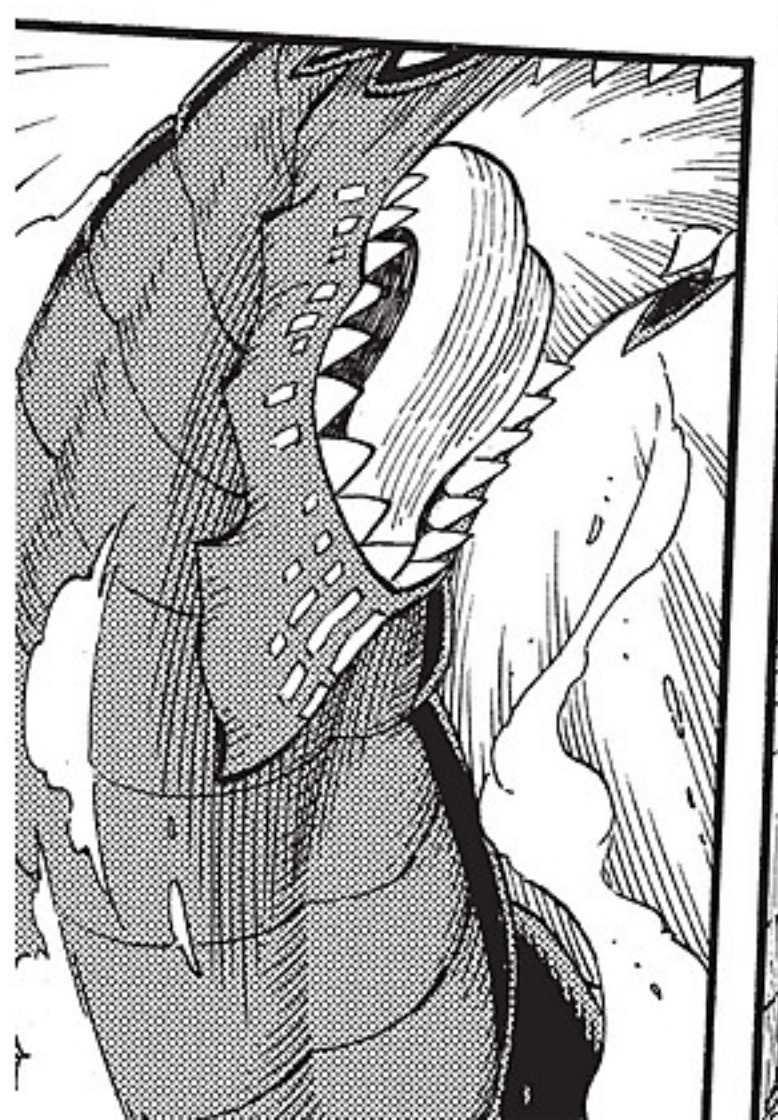
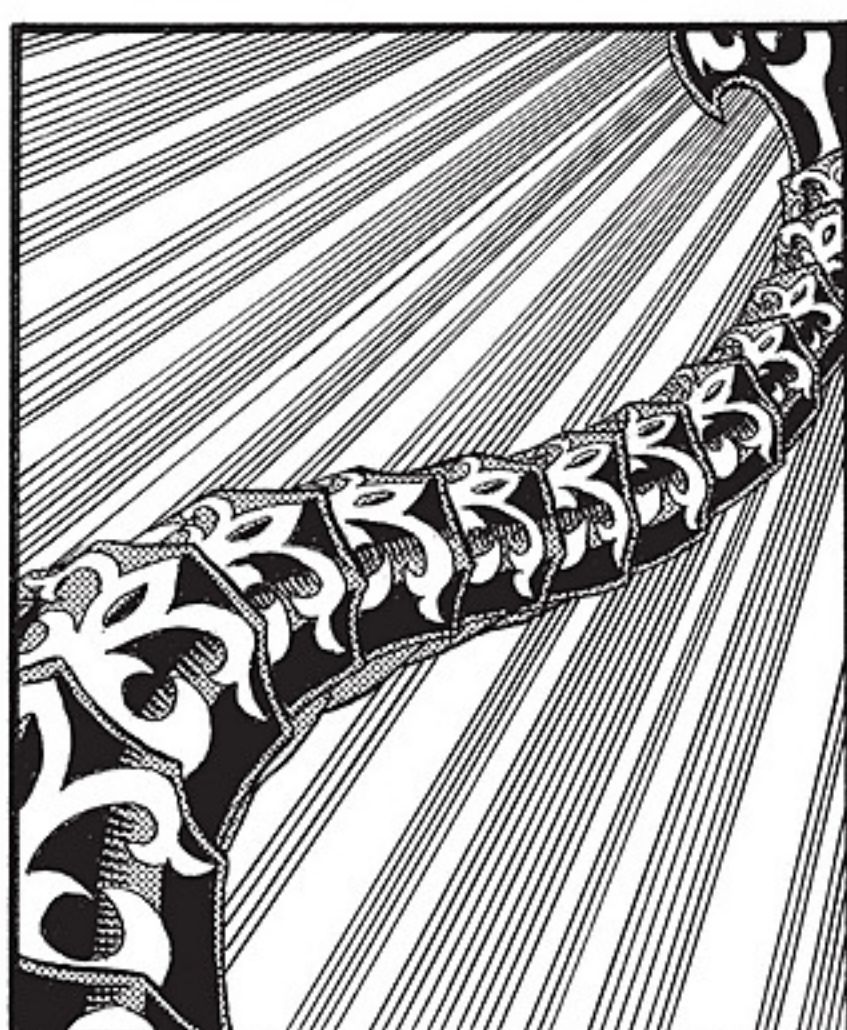
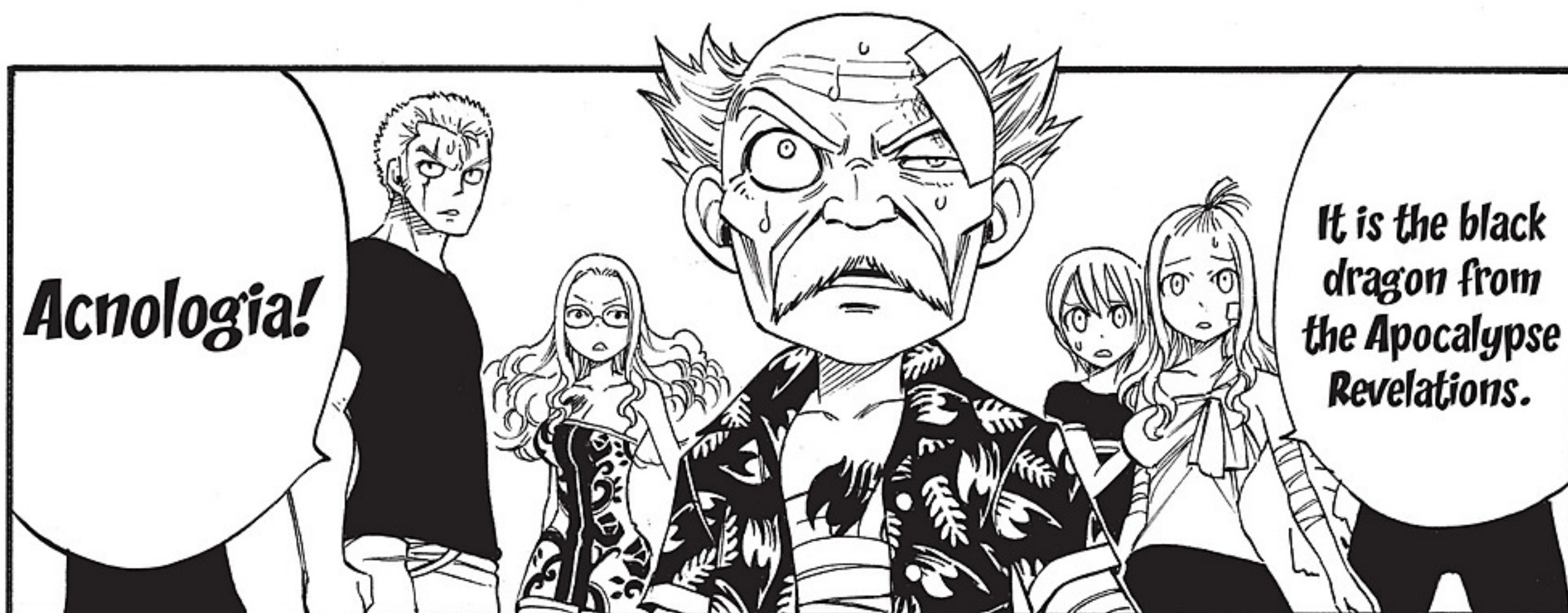




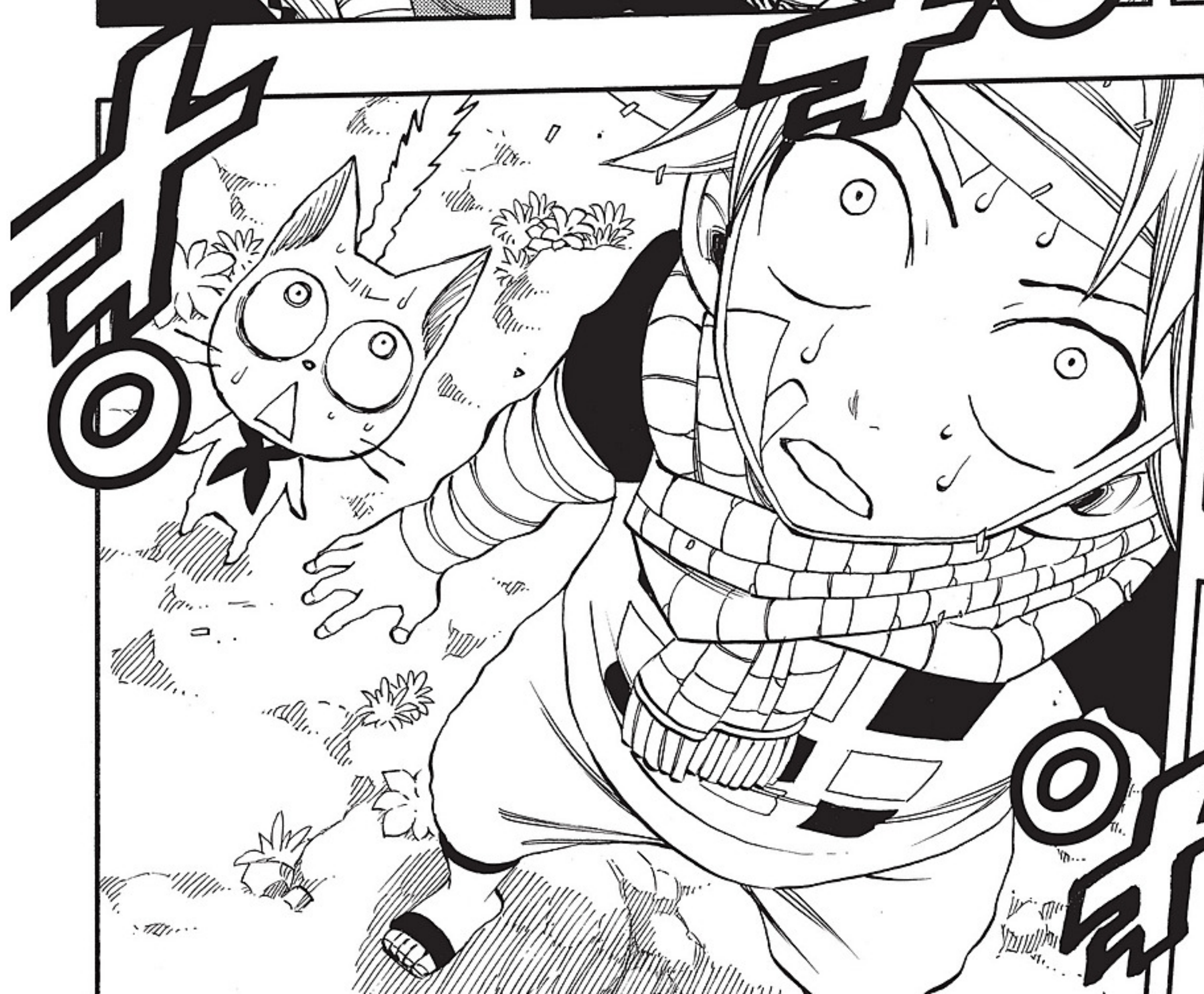
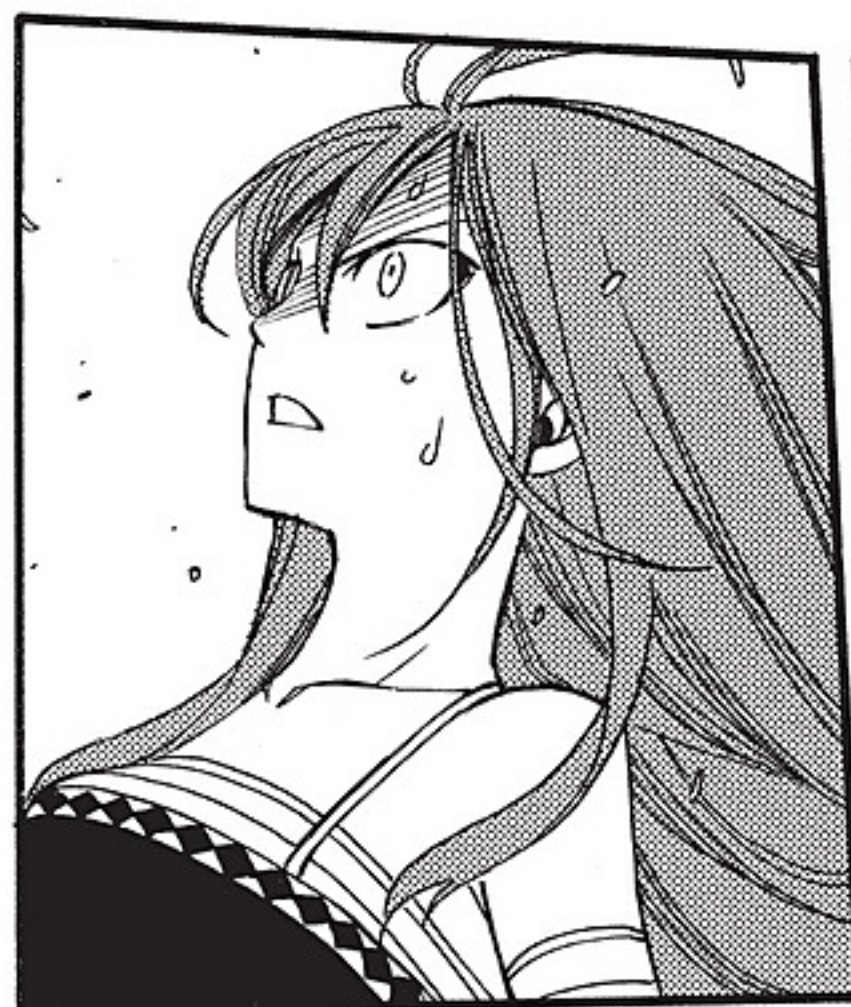
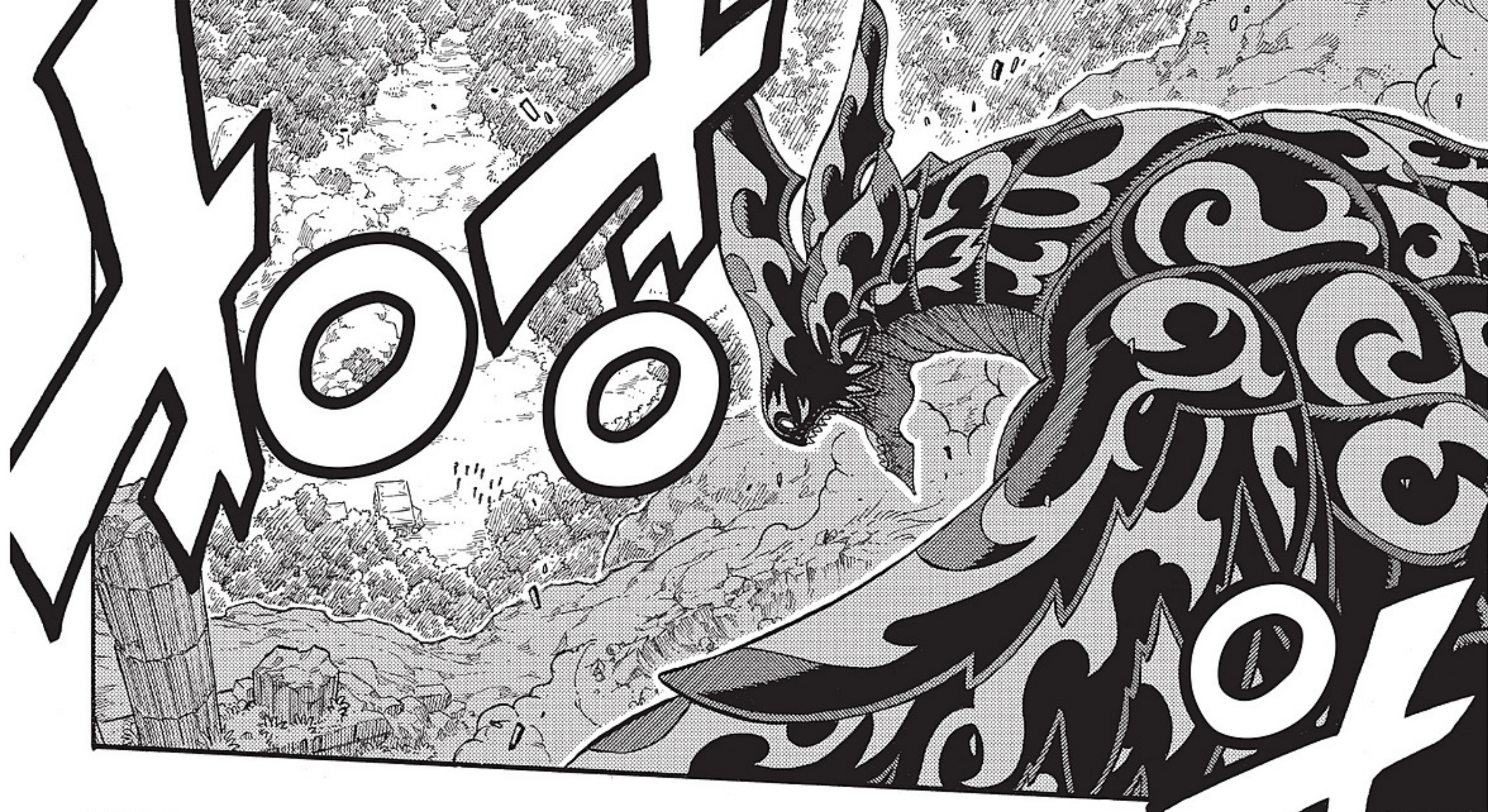
*...when
suddenly,
our doom
arrived.*

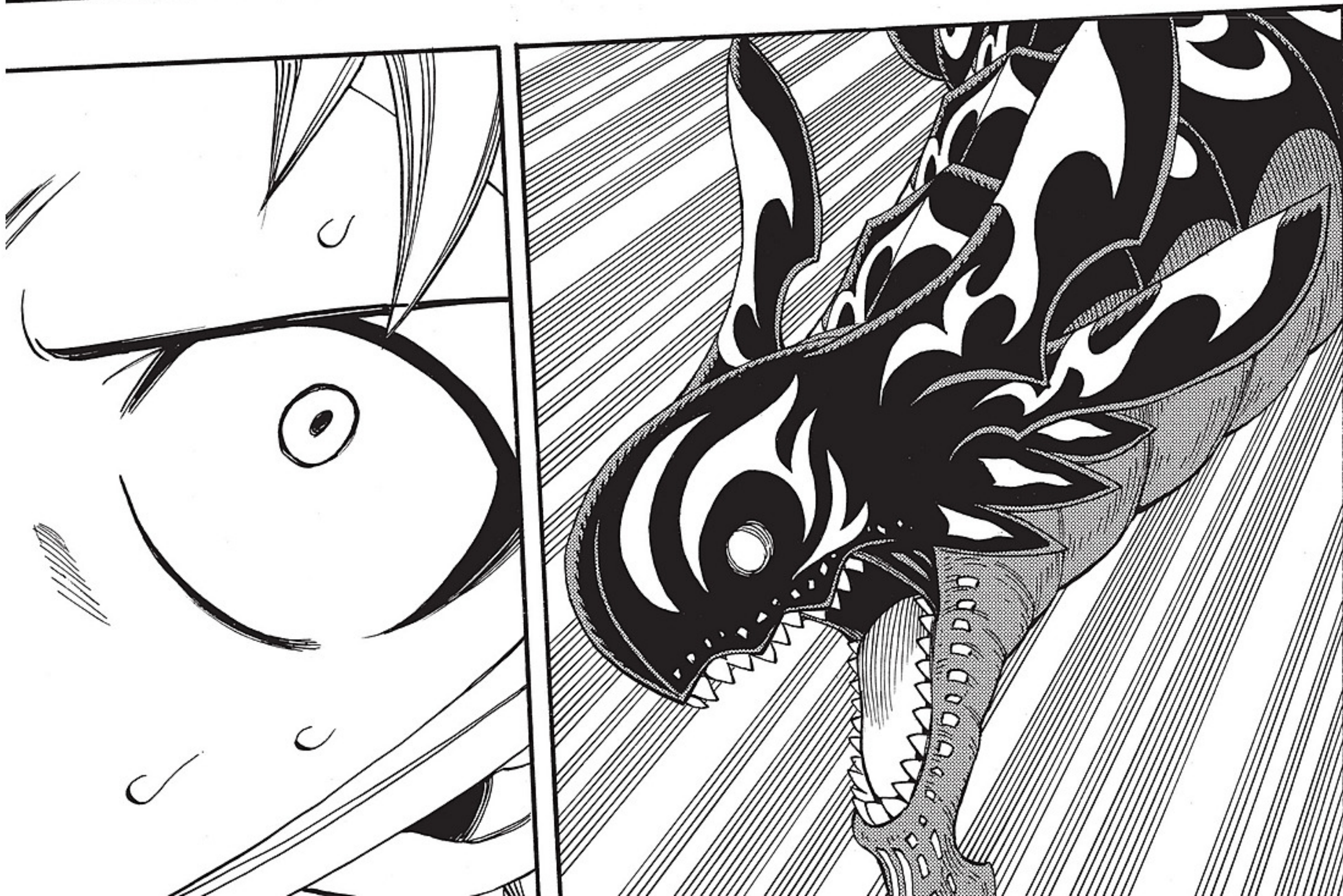
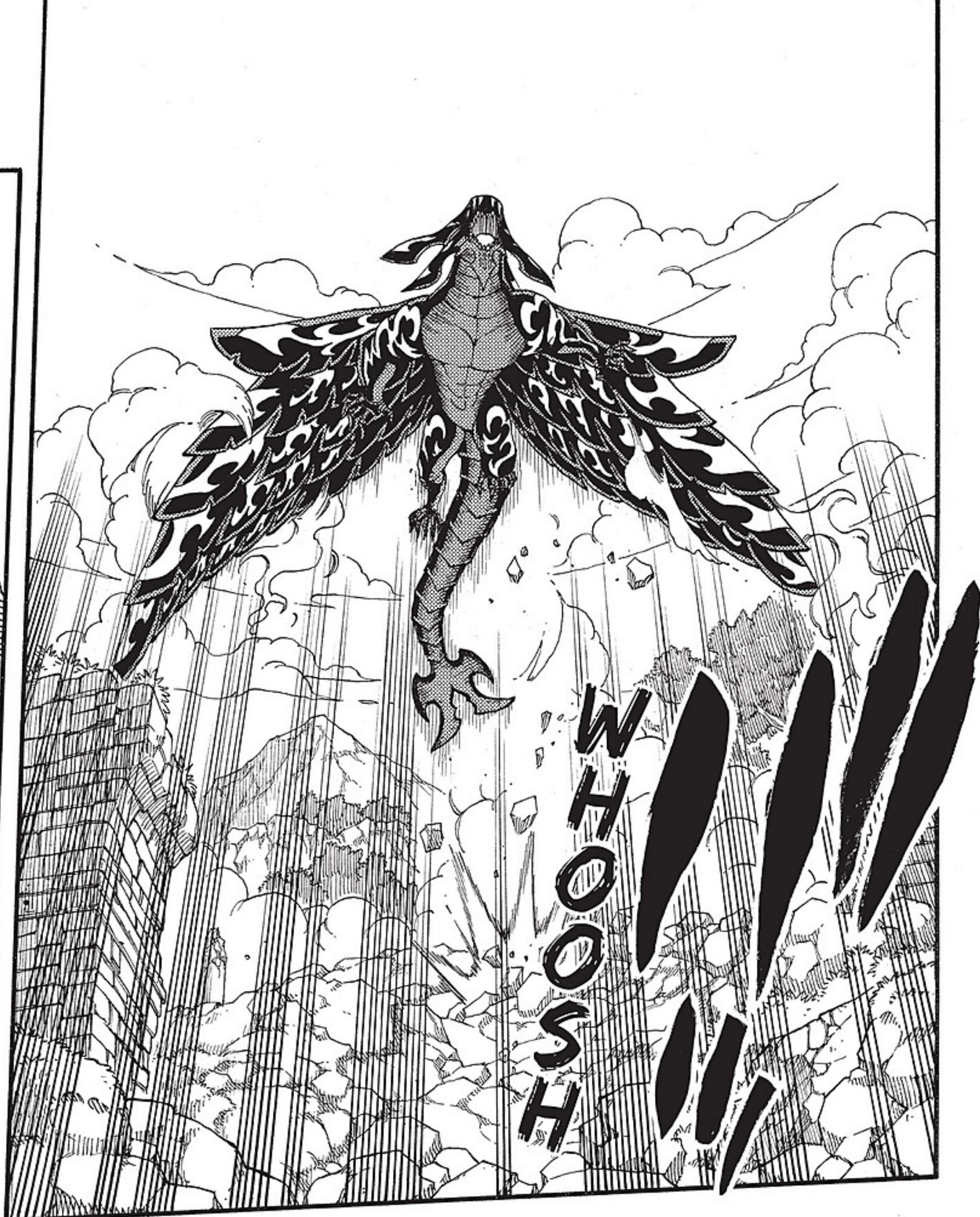
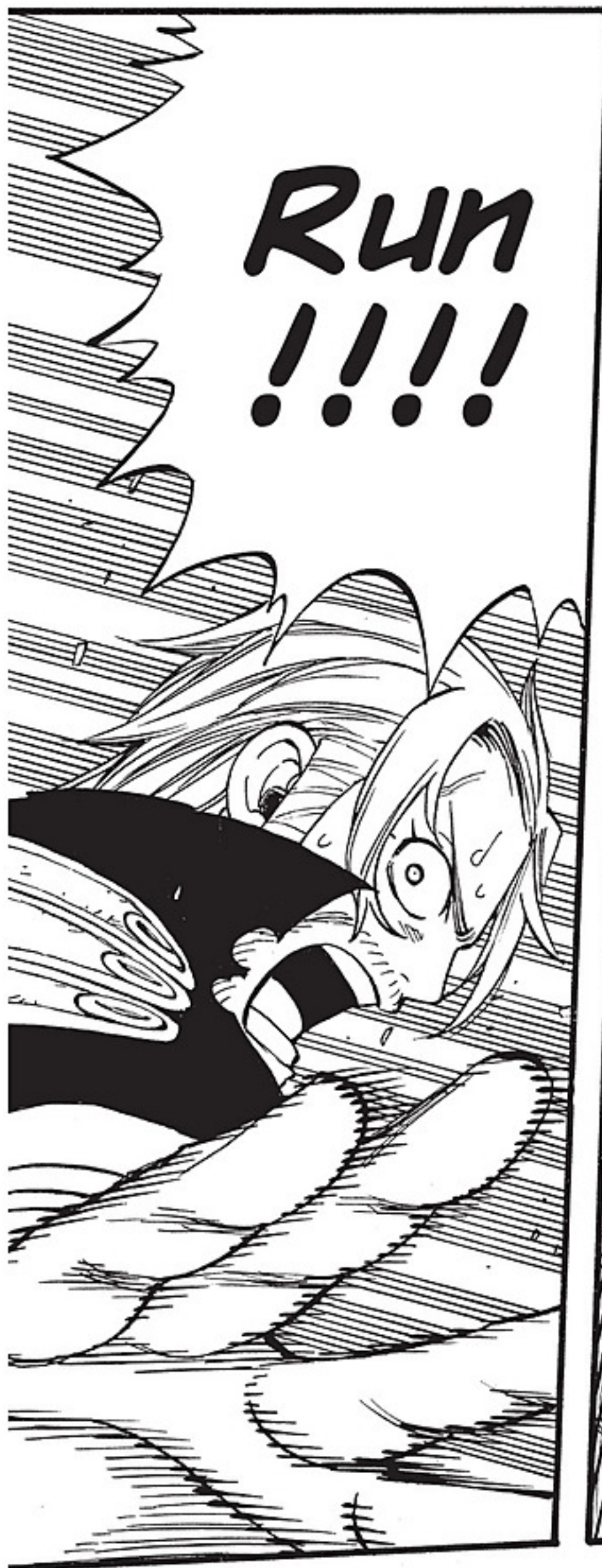




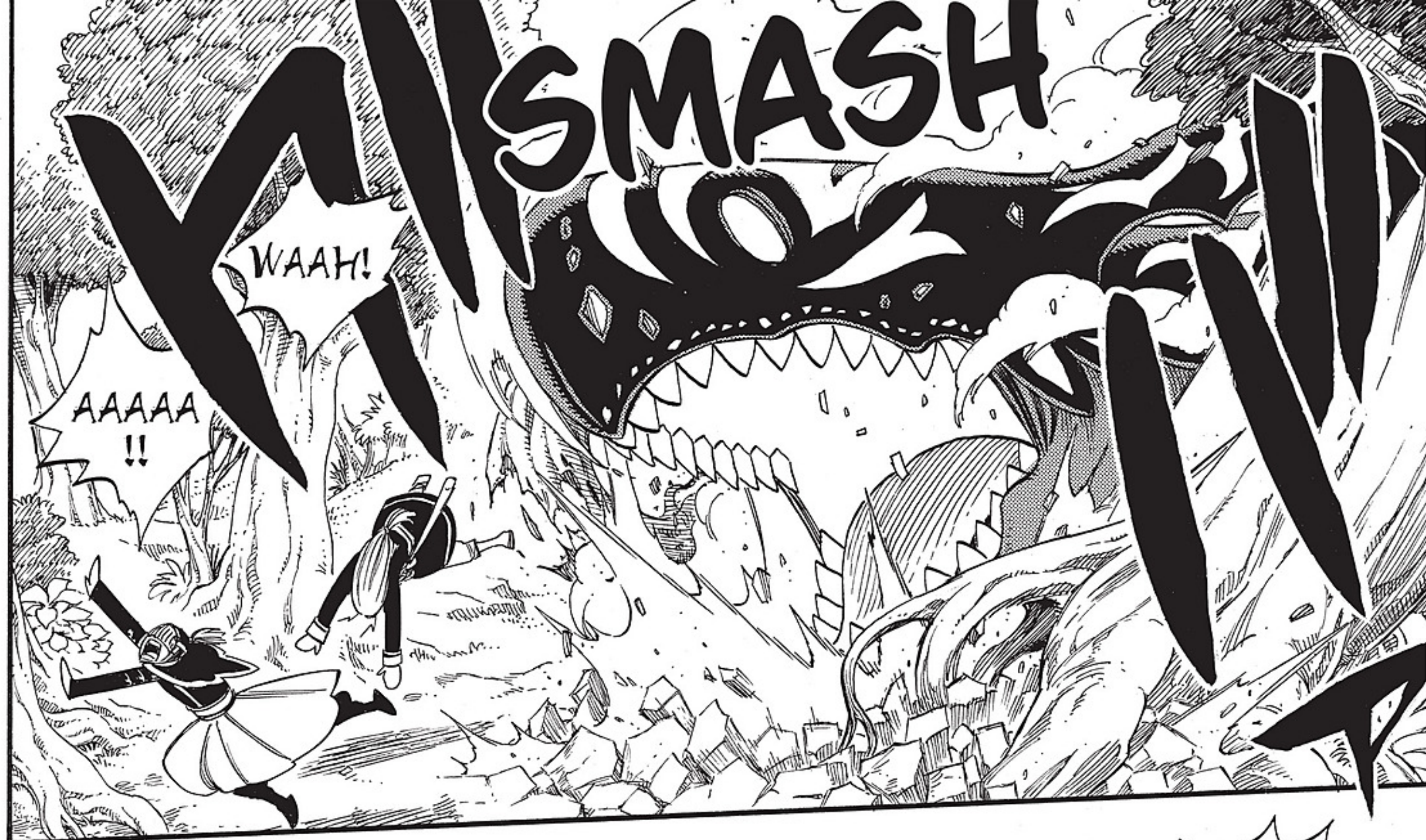






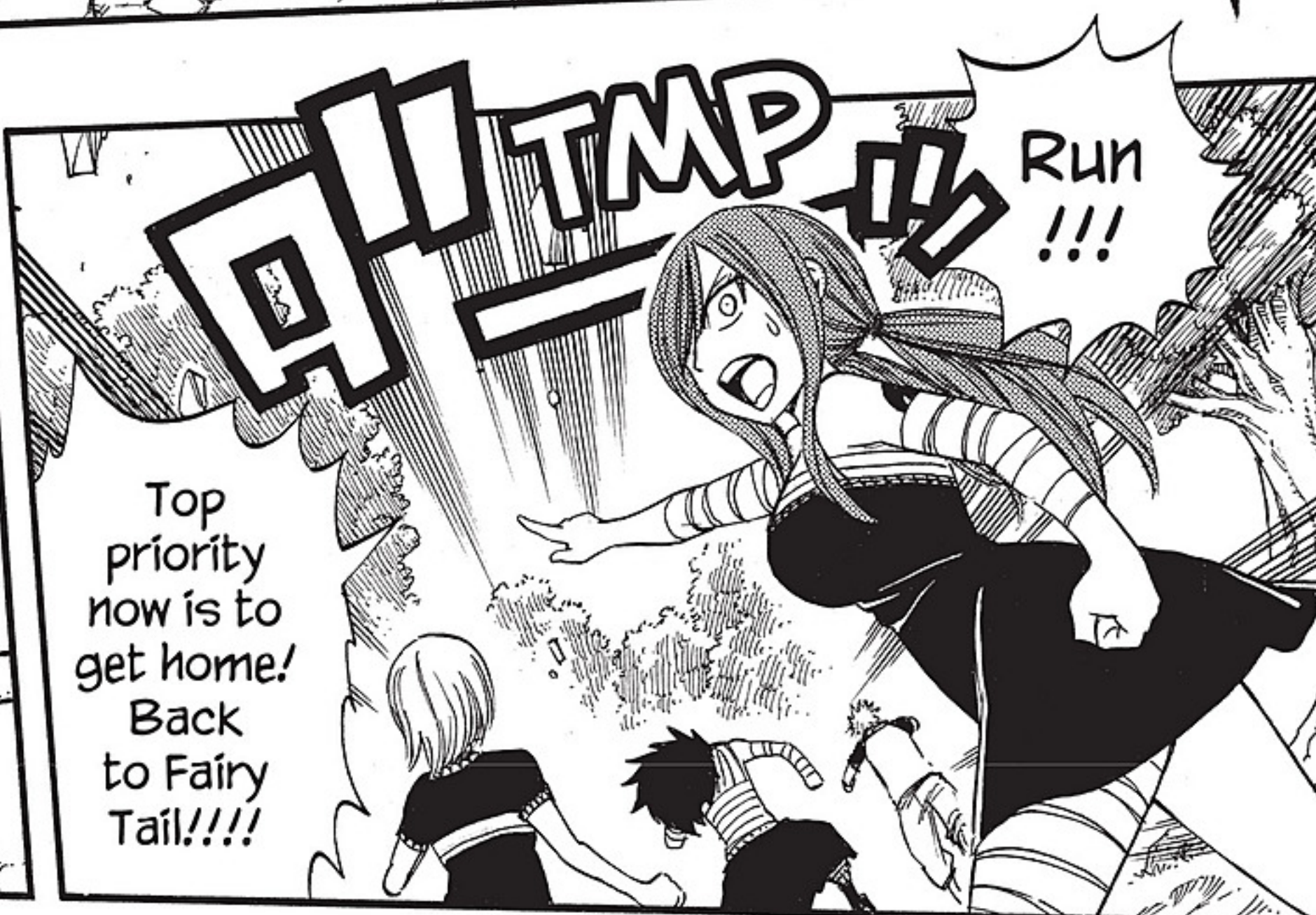






Can't
you try
now?!!

Wendy!!!
I thought
you could
talk to
dragons!



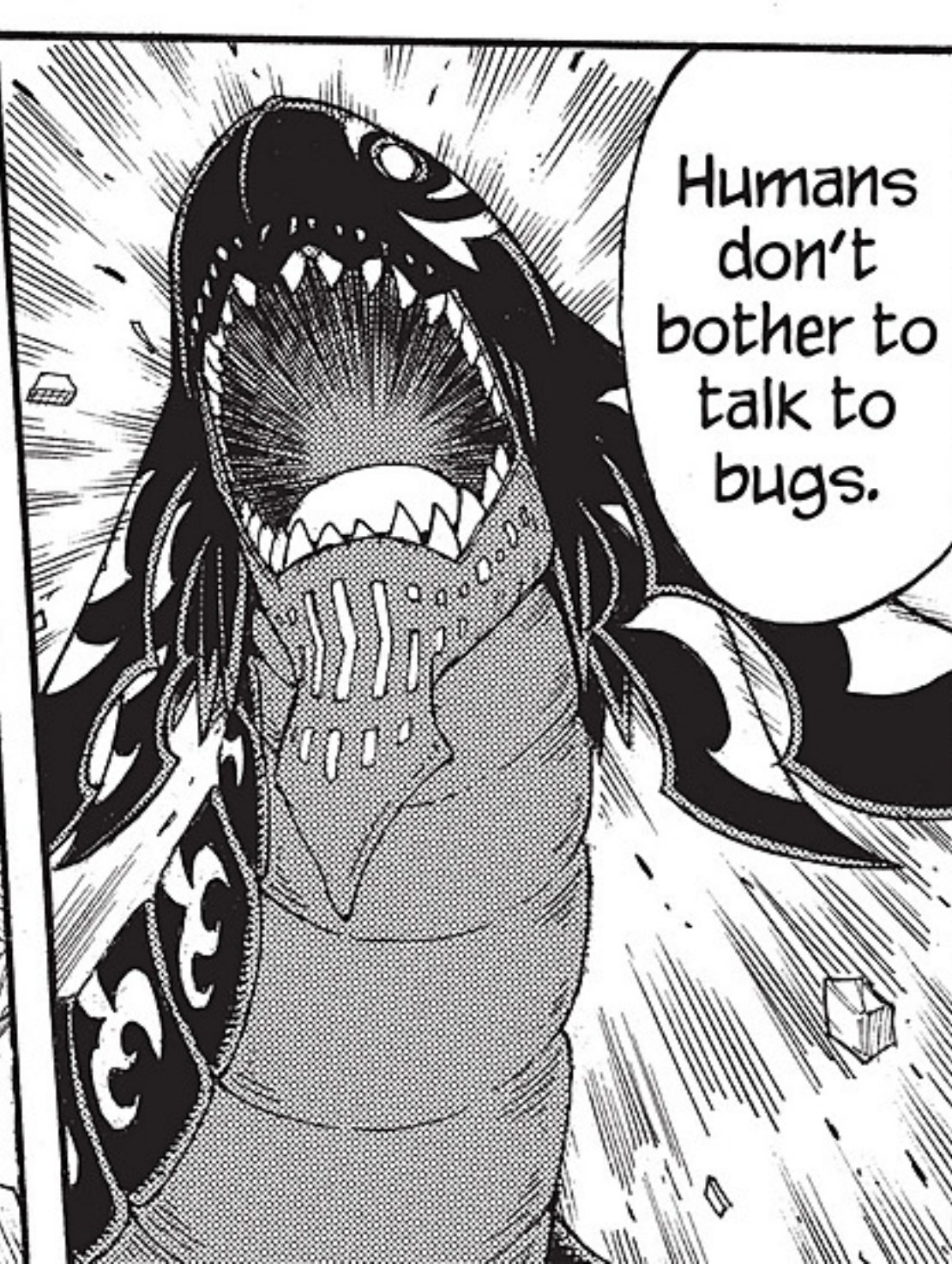
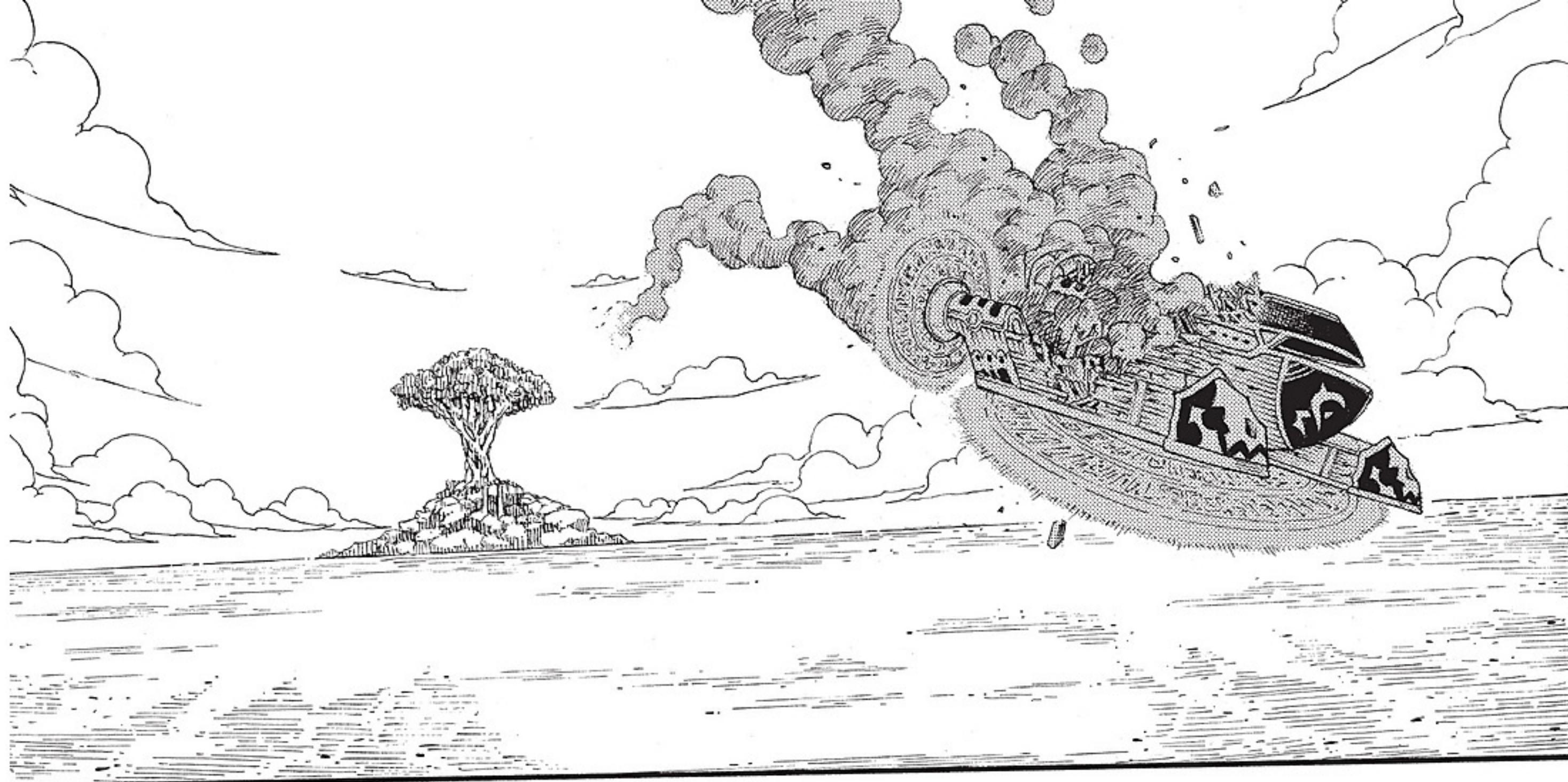
Top
priority
now is to
get home!
Back
to Fairy
Tail!!!!



This dragon
should be able
to understand
human lan-
guage, too!



It isn't
just me!! All
dragons have
really high
intelligence!





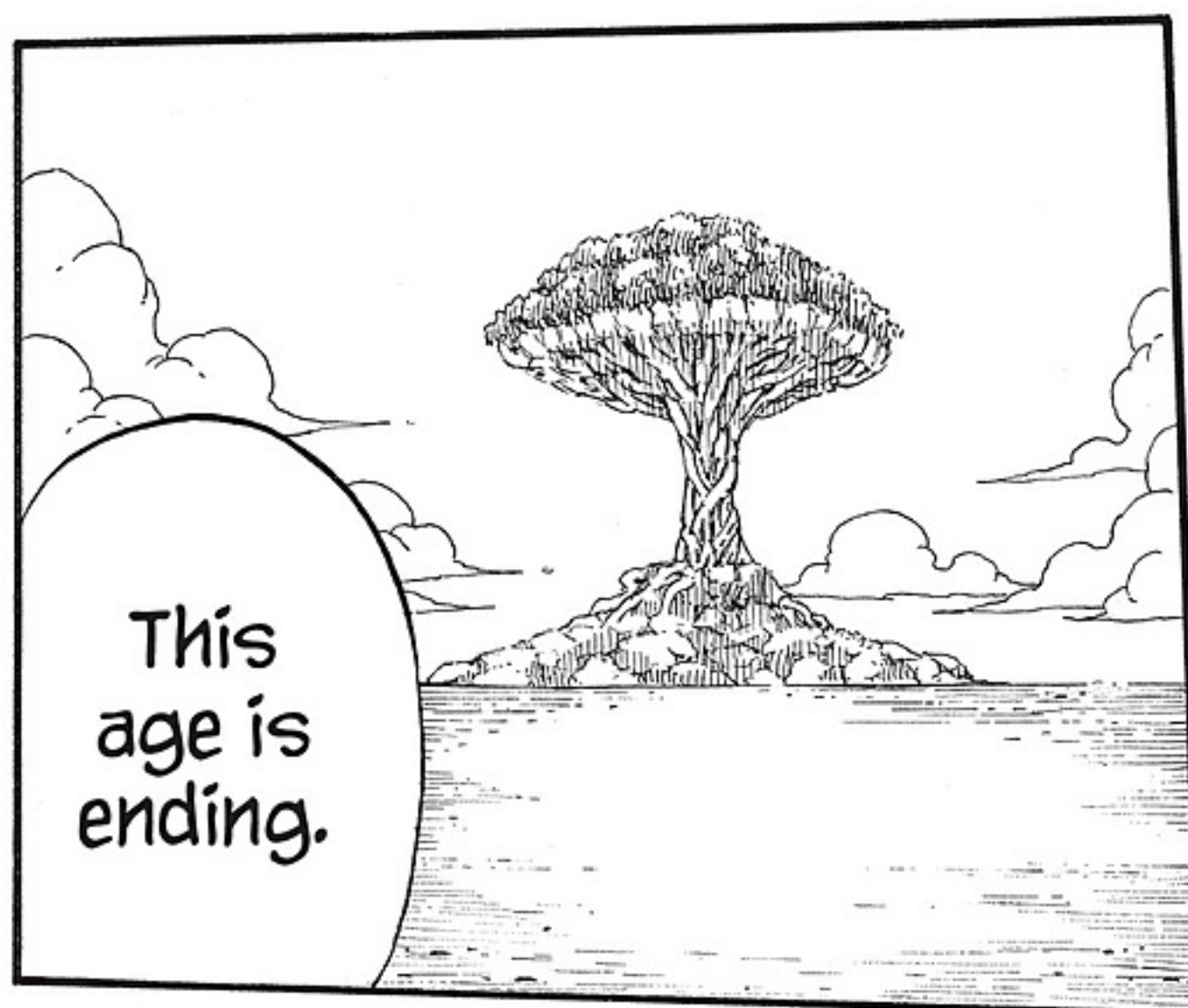
Humanity
is about to
learn that
lesson.



This
world has
enemies that
cannot be
opposed.



Similarly,
there is no one
who expends
all his power
simply to kill
a bug.



This
age is
ending.

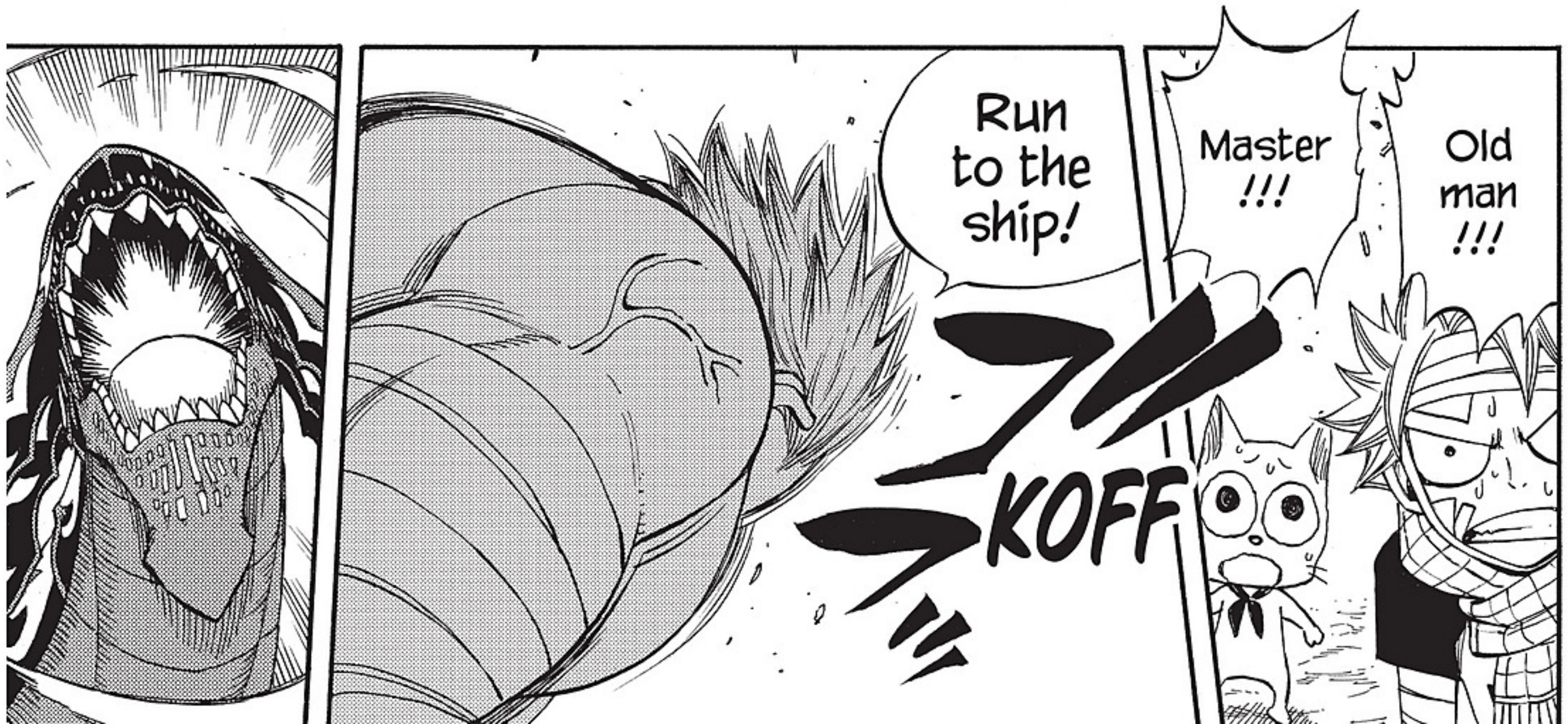
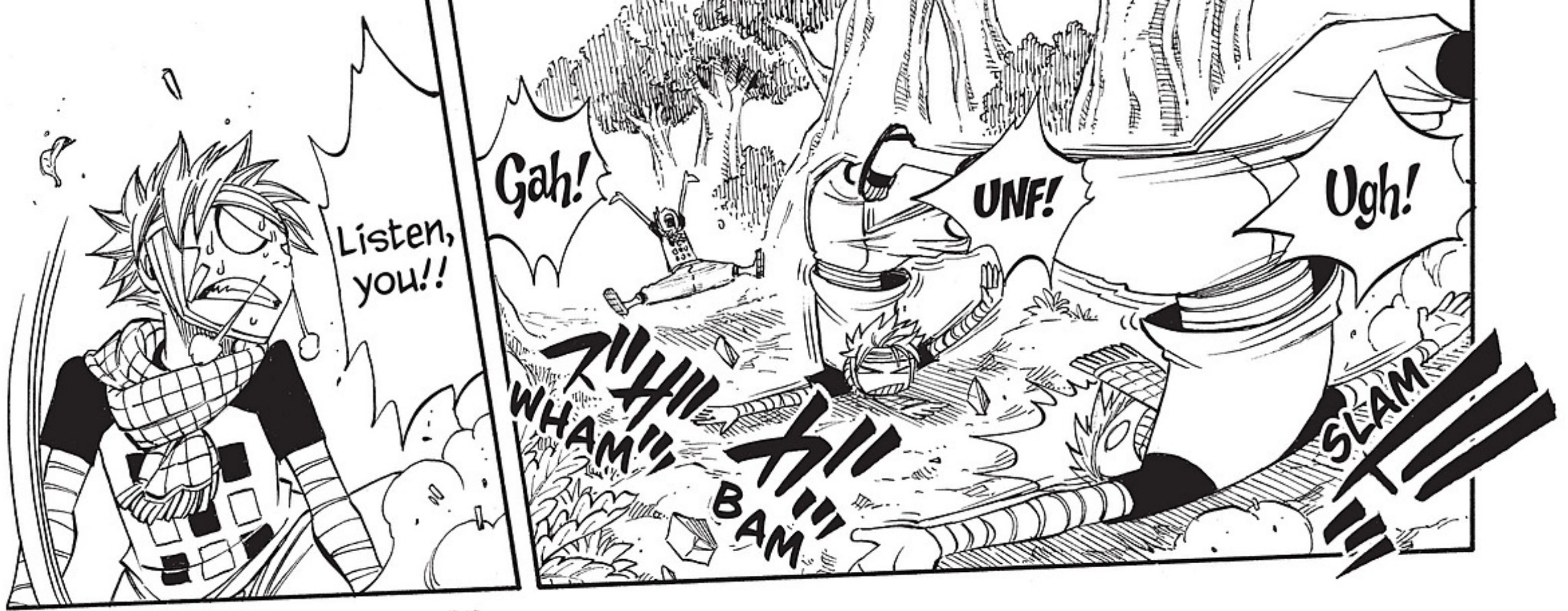


I can see...
that I have
another very
long road
ahead of
me.

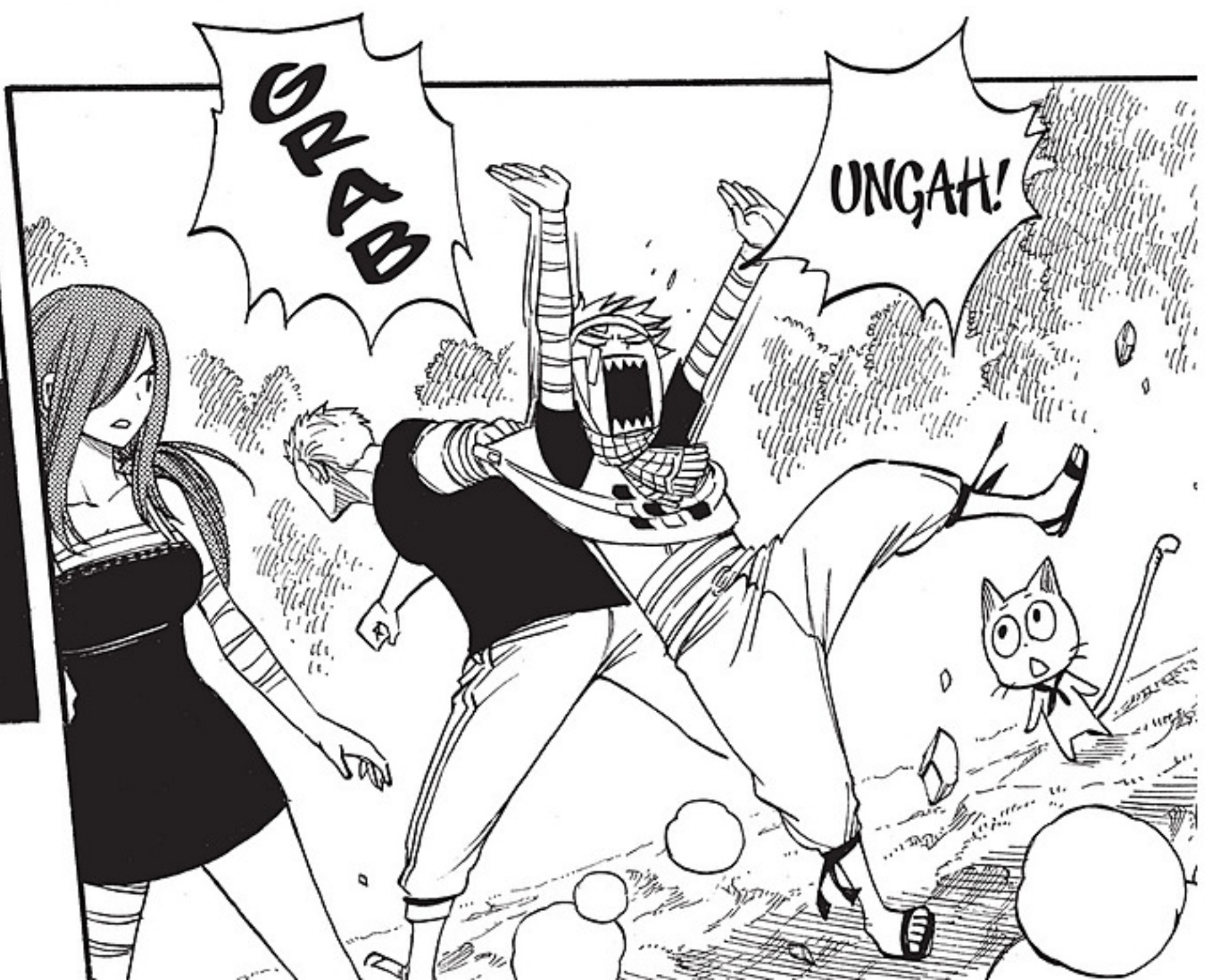


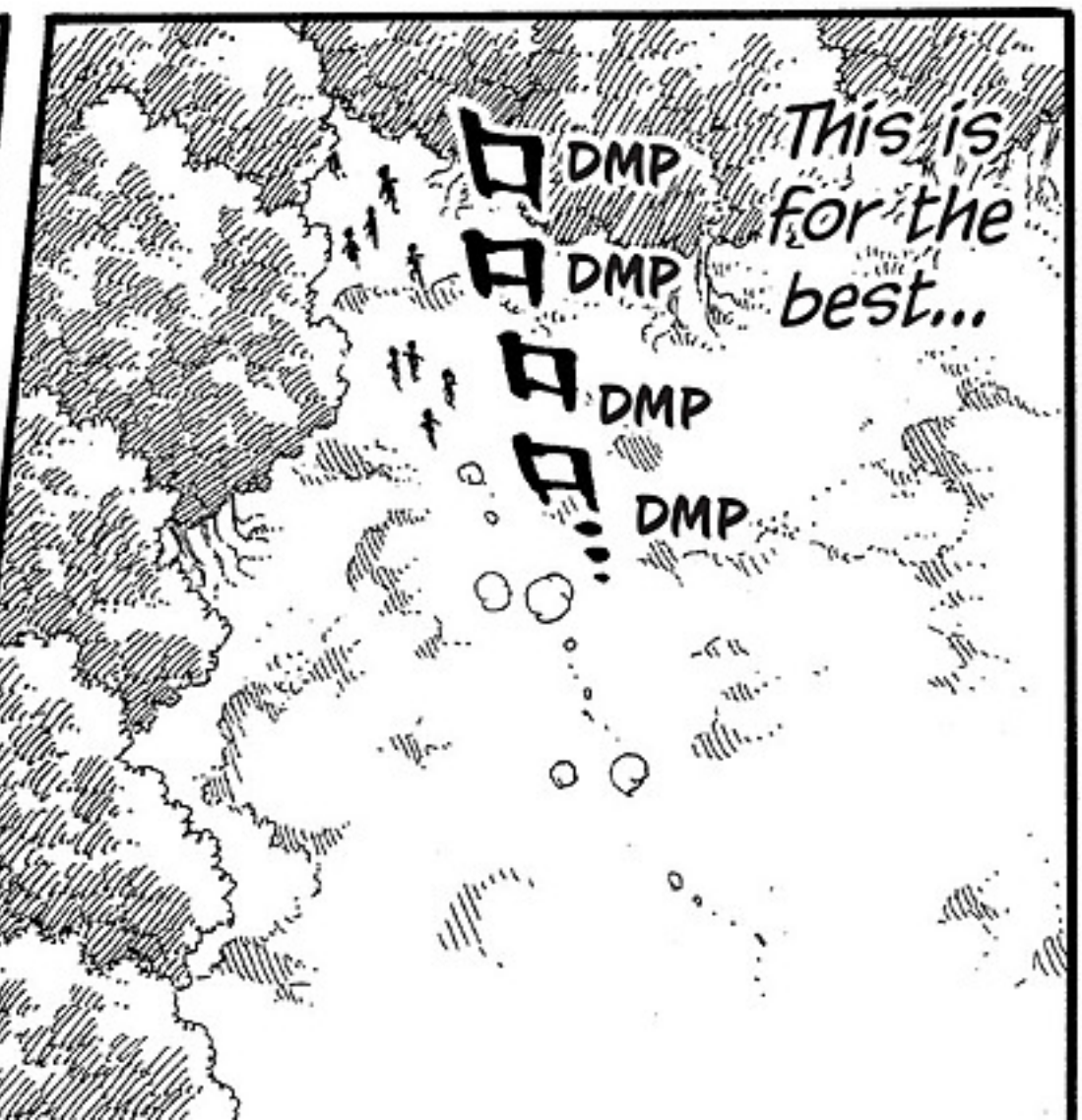
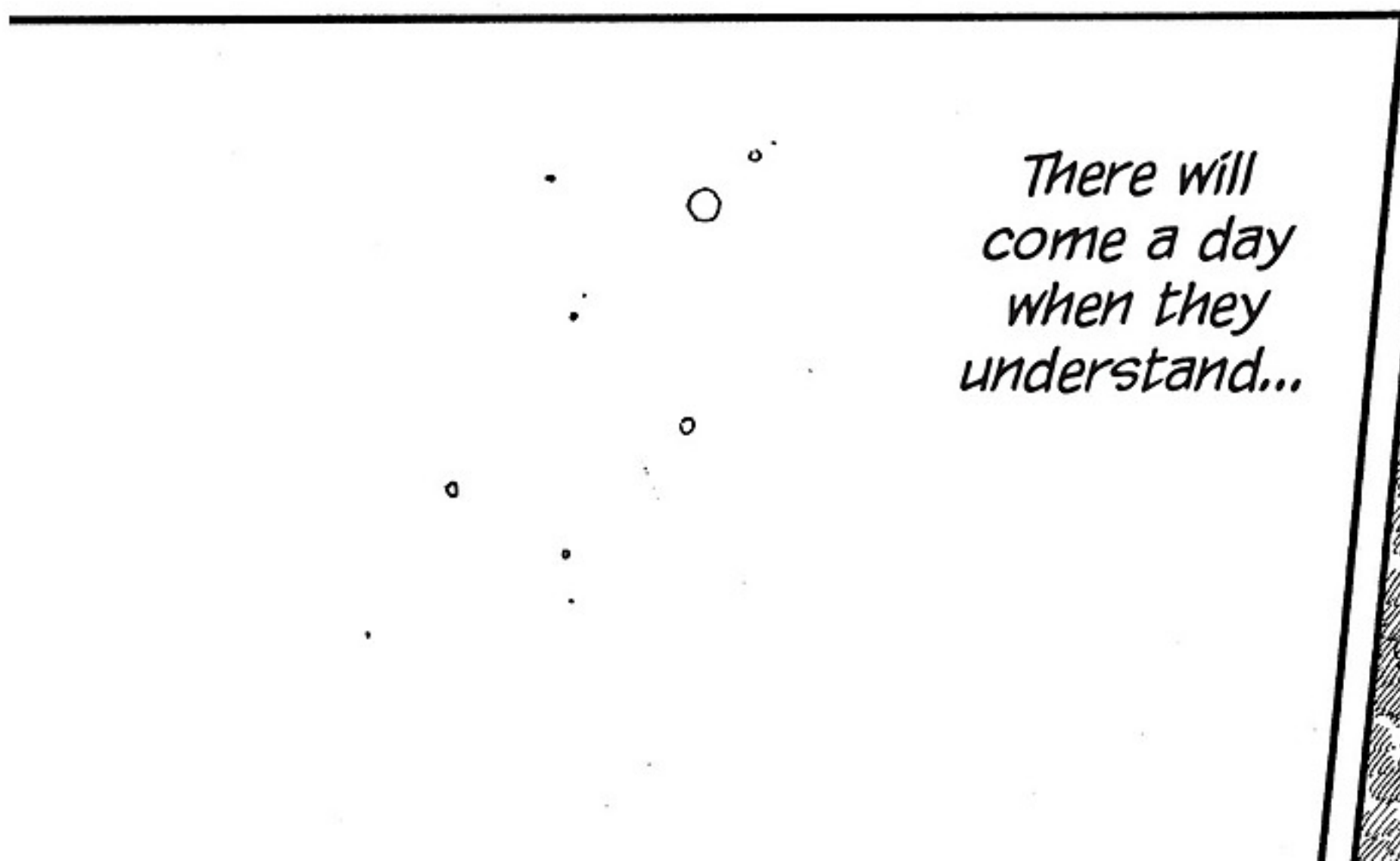
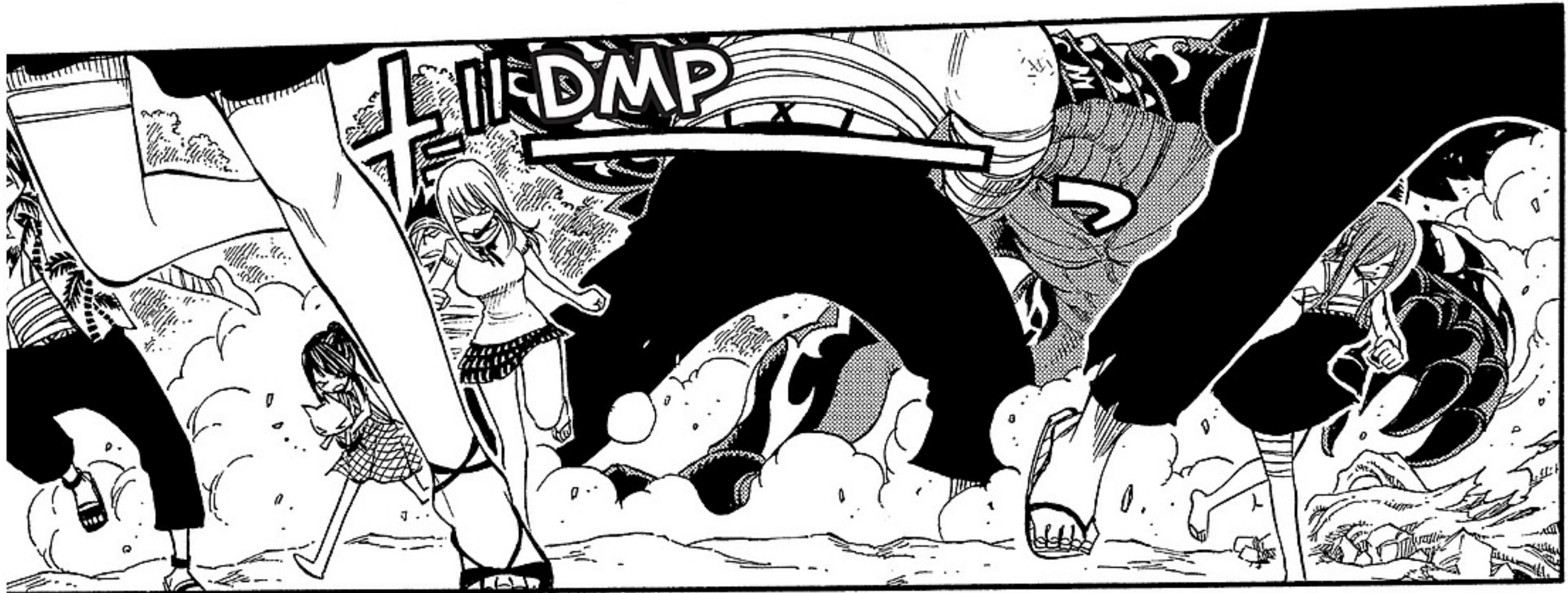
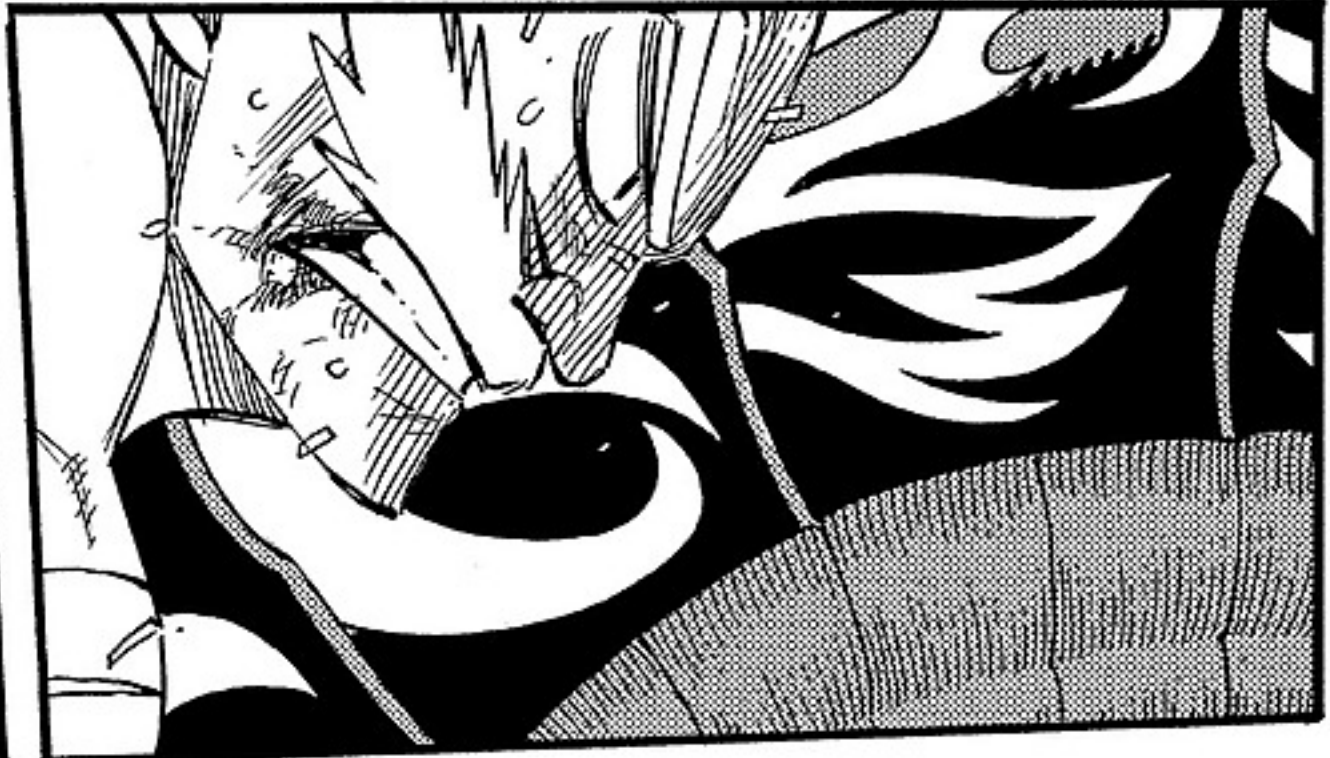
Natsu.

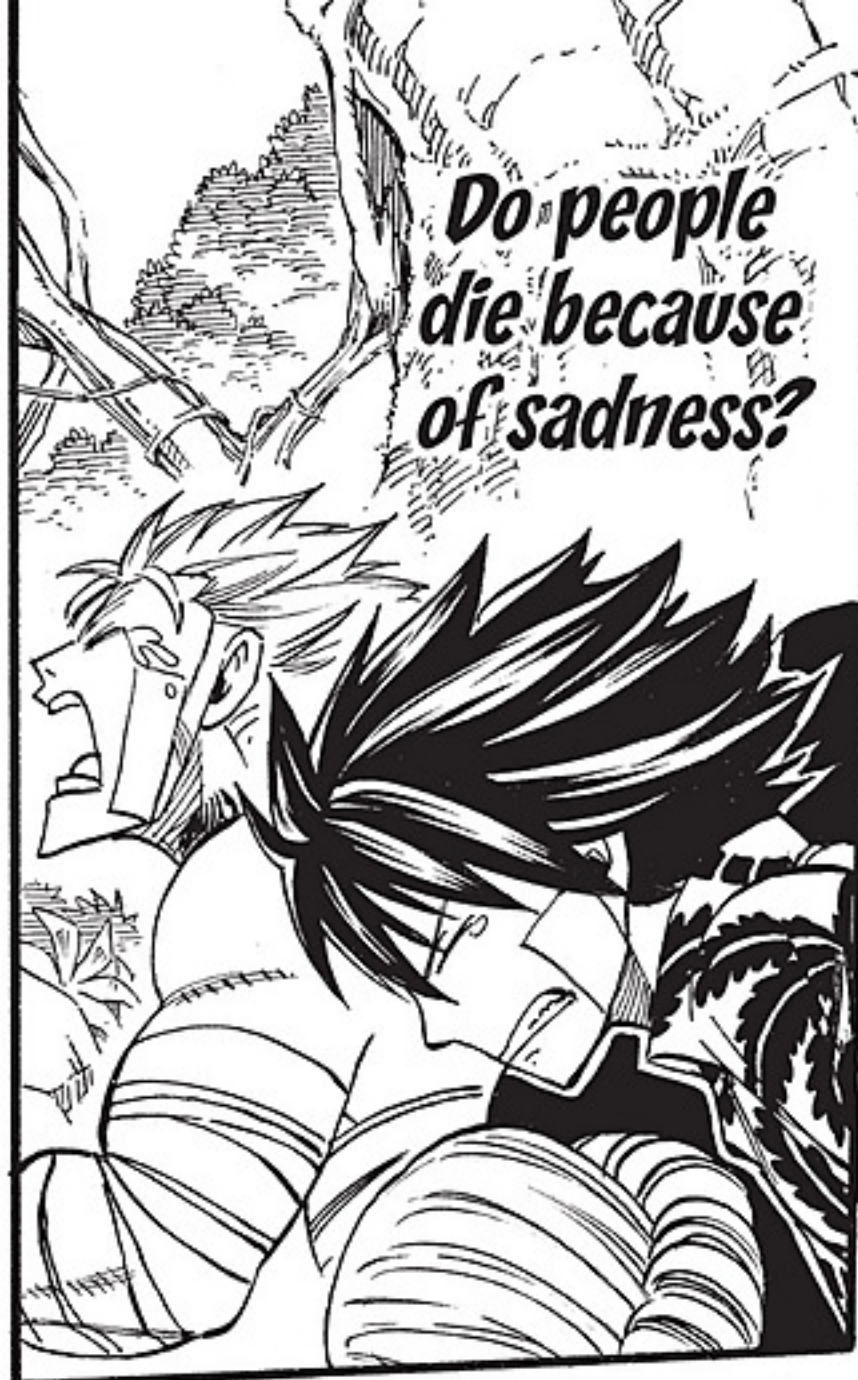
Farewell
...











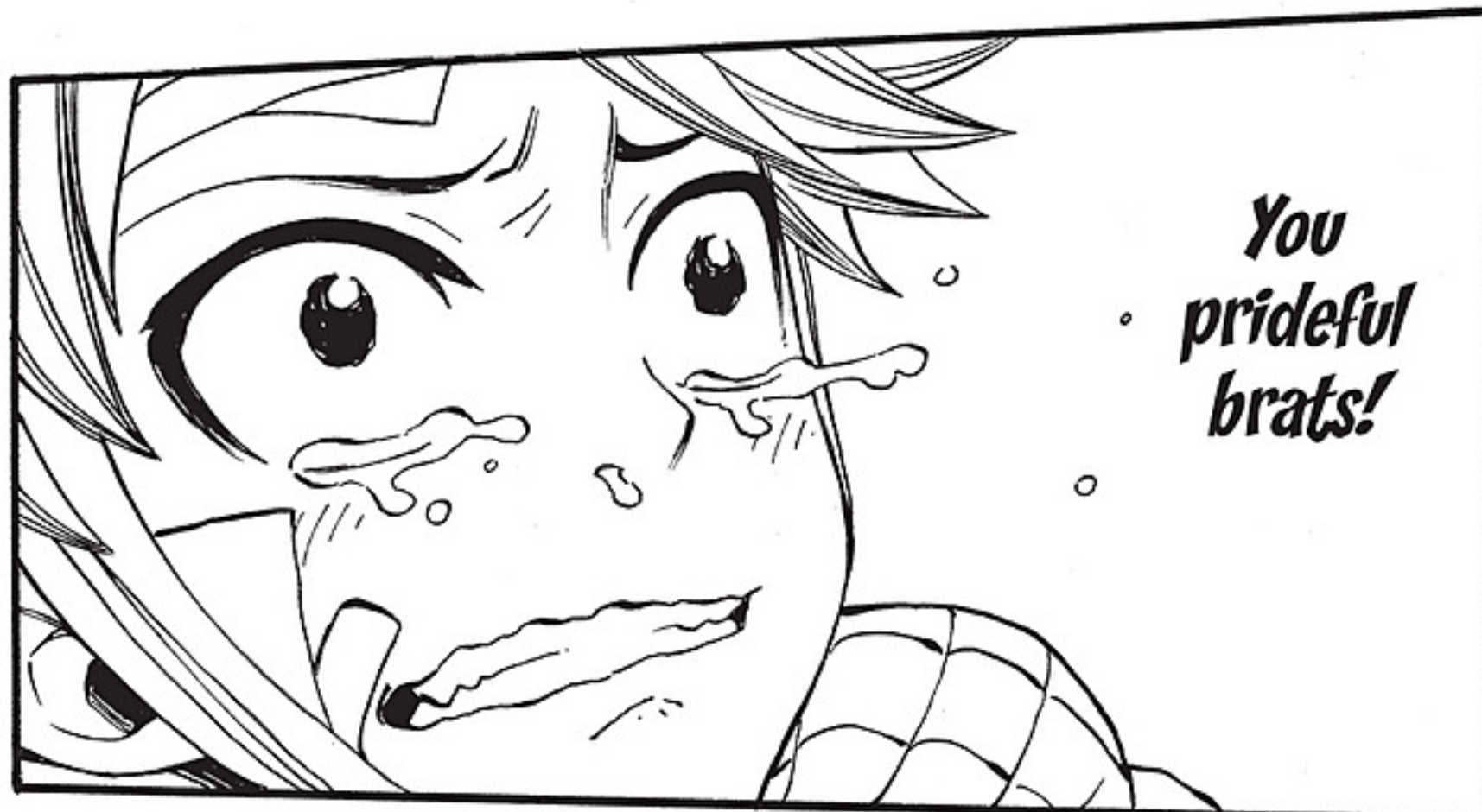
*Do people
die because
of sadness?*



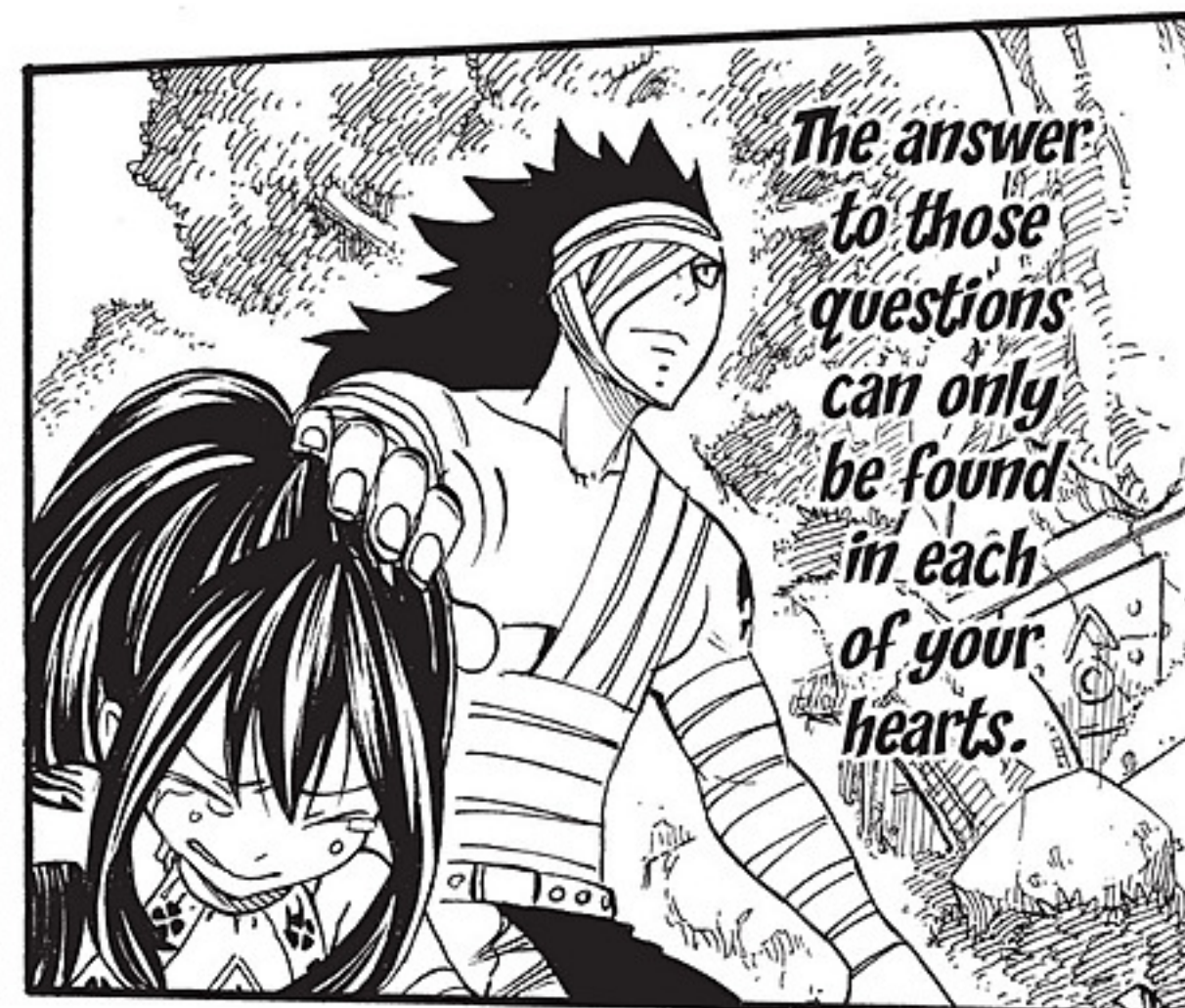
*Are
we sad
because
people die?*



*Tears
mean
little in
them-
selves!*



*You
prideful
brats!*

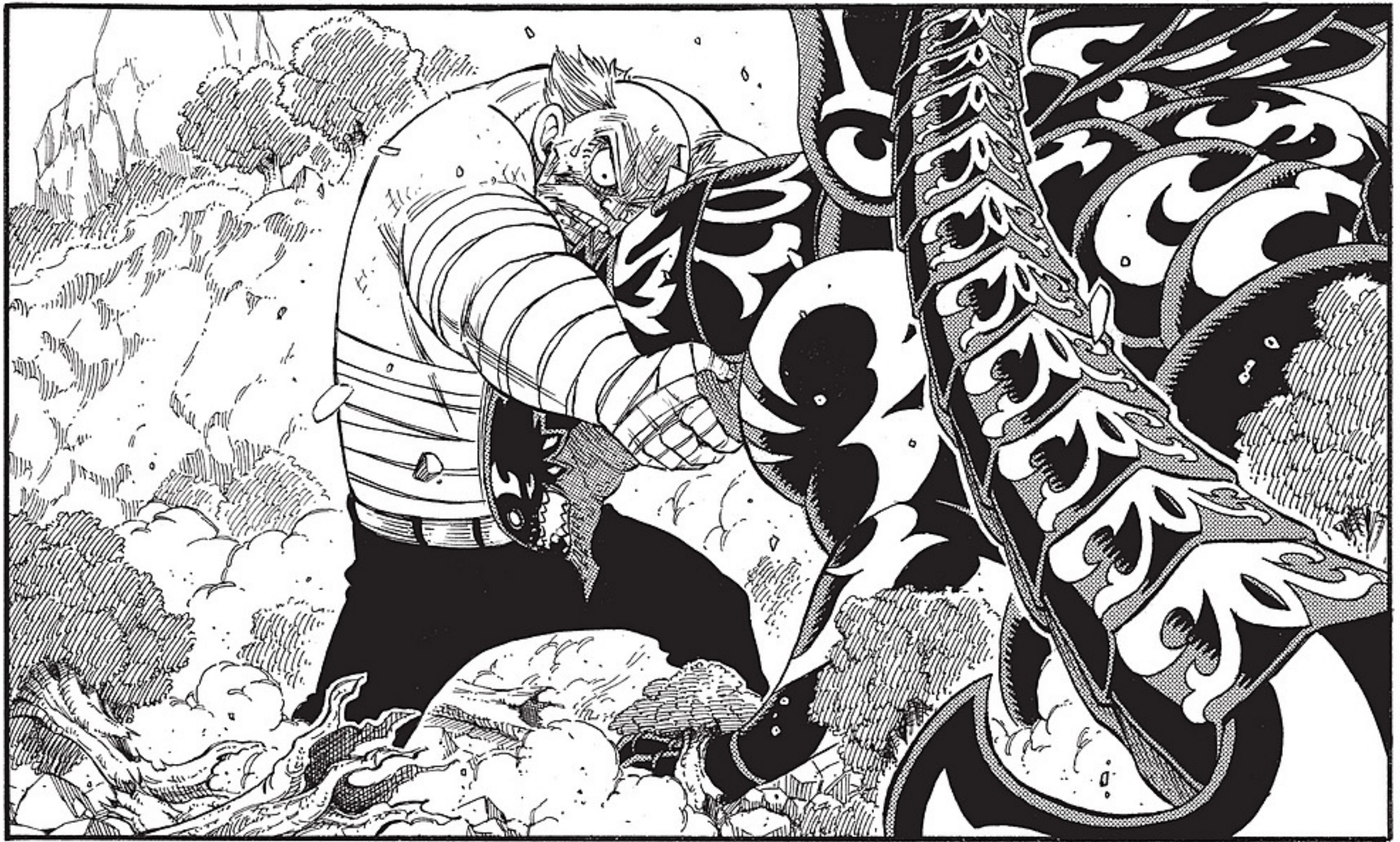


*The answer
to those
questions
can only
be found
in each
of your
hearts.*



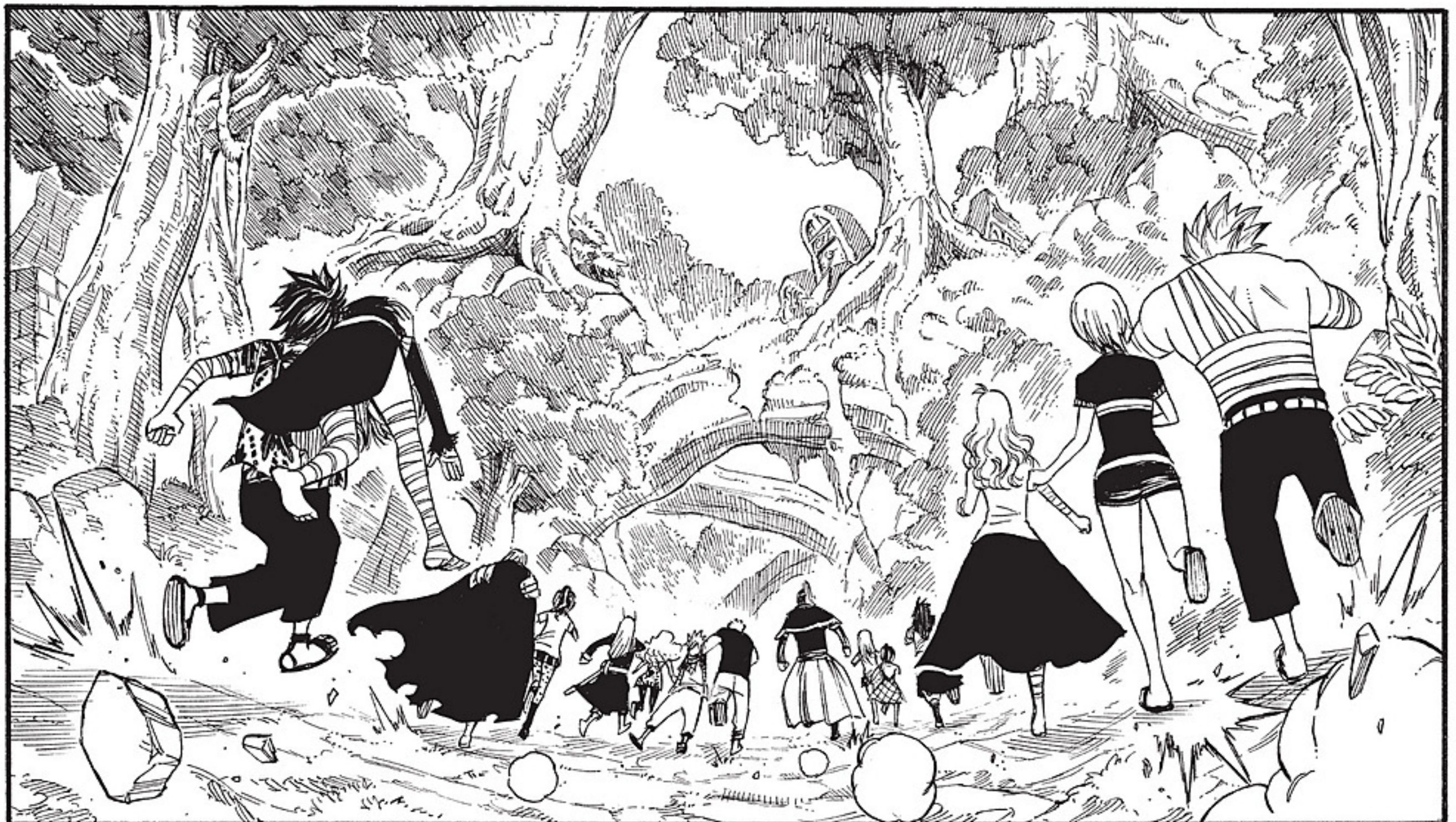
*Live
on!!!!*

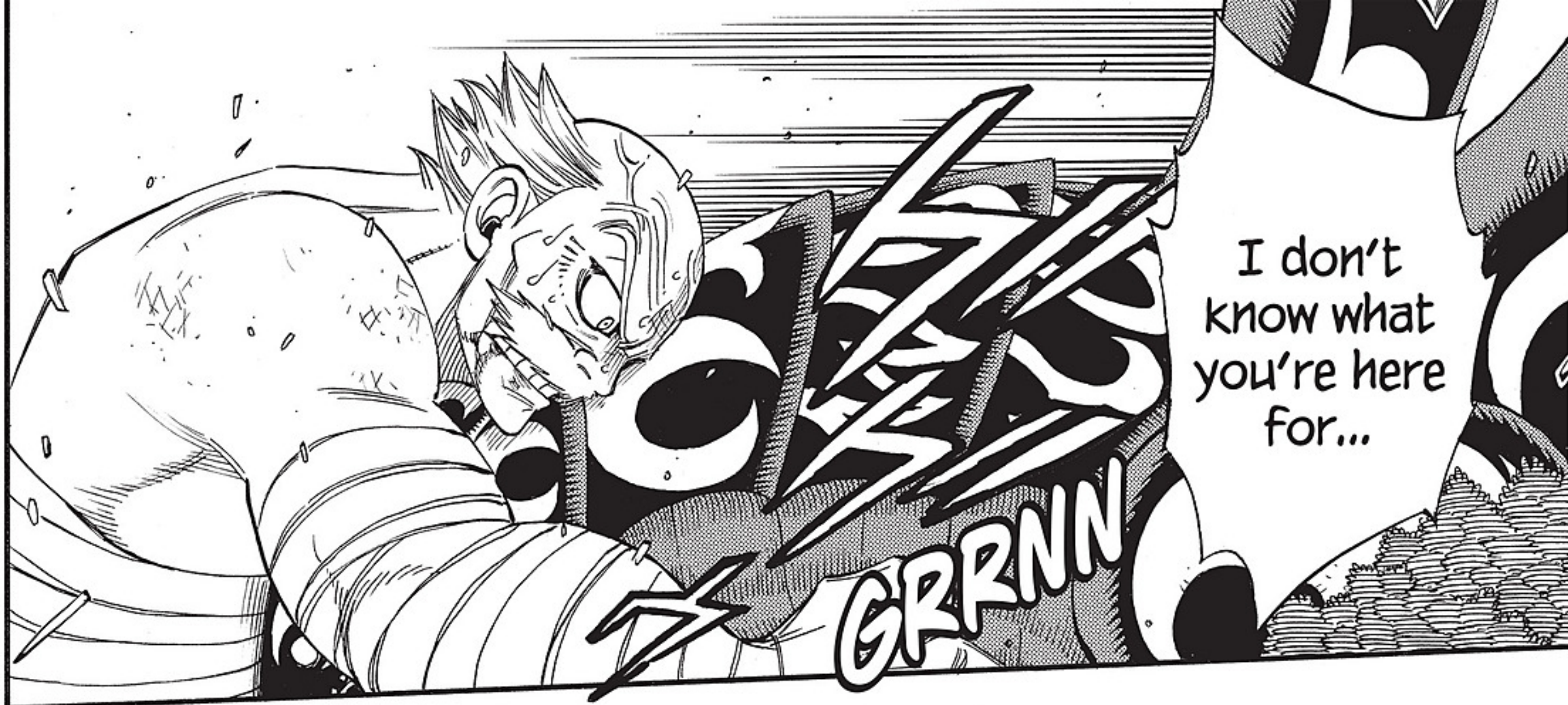
*Into
the
future
!!!!*



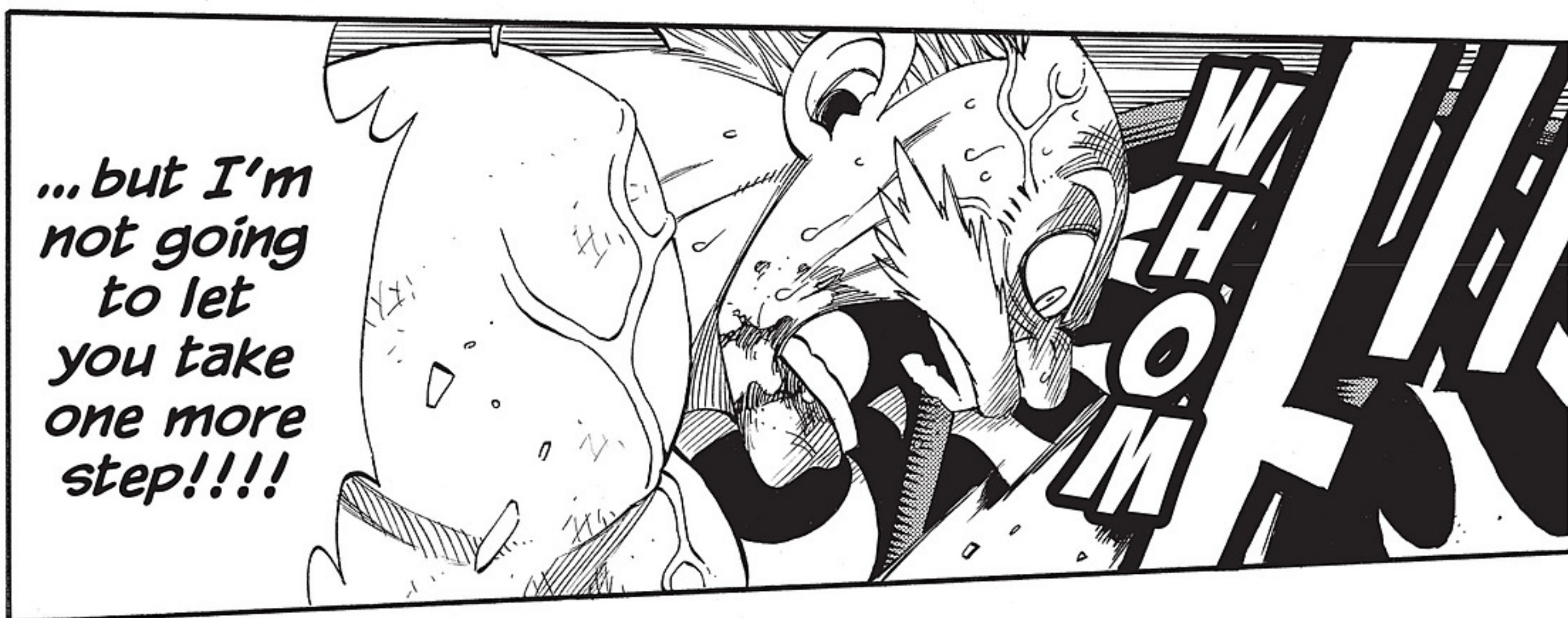
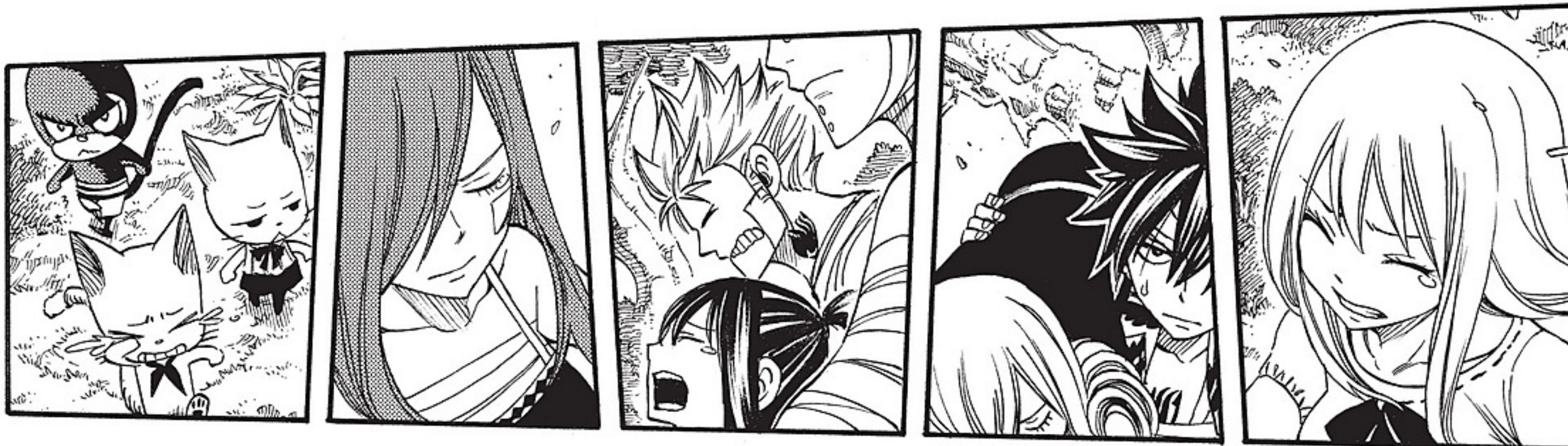
FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 253: Let's Join Hands

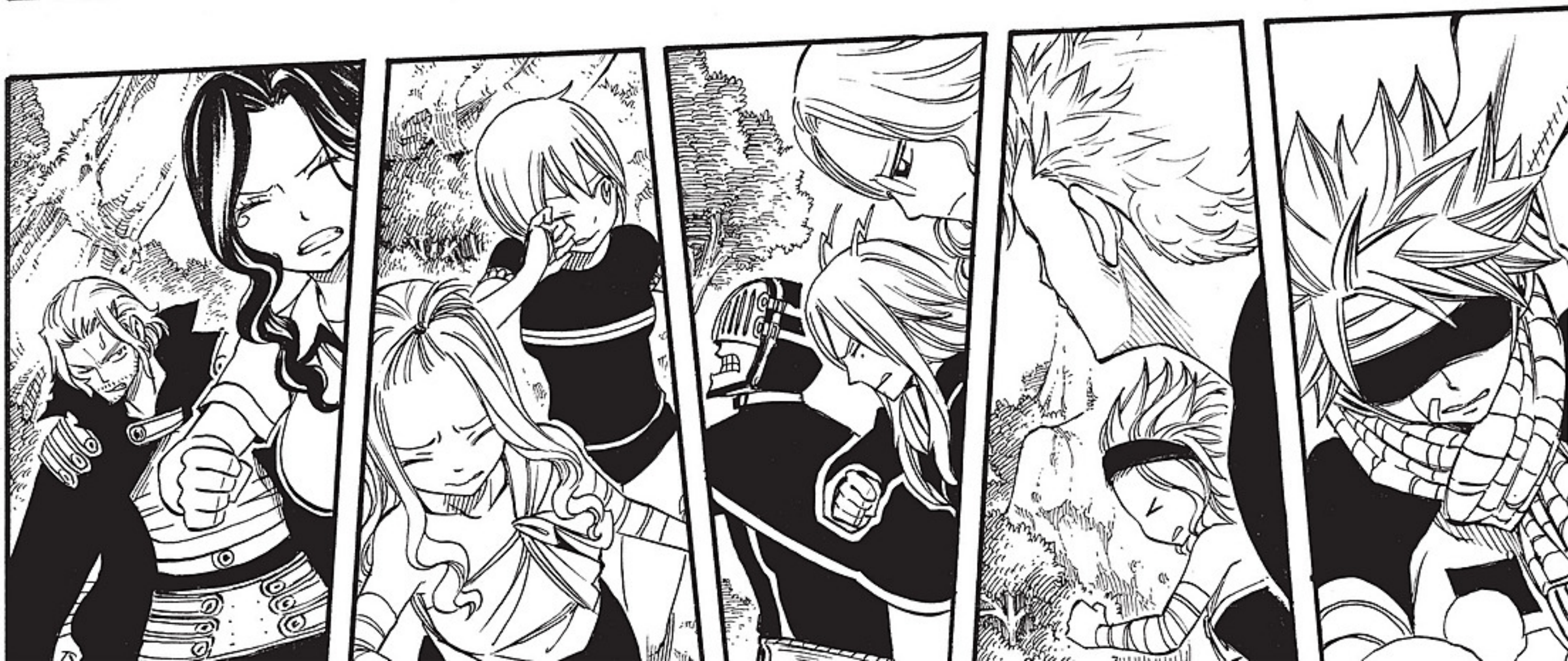




I don't know what you're here for...

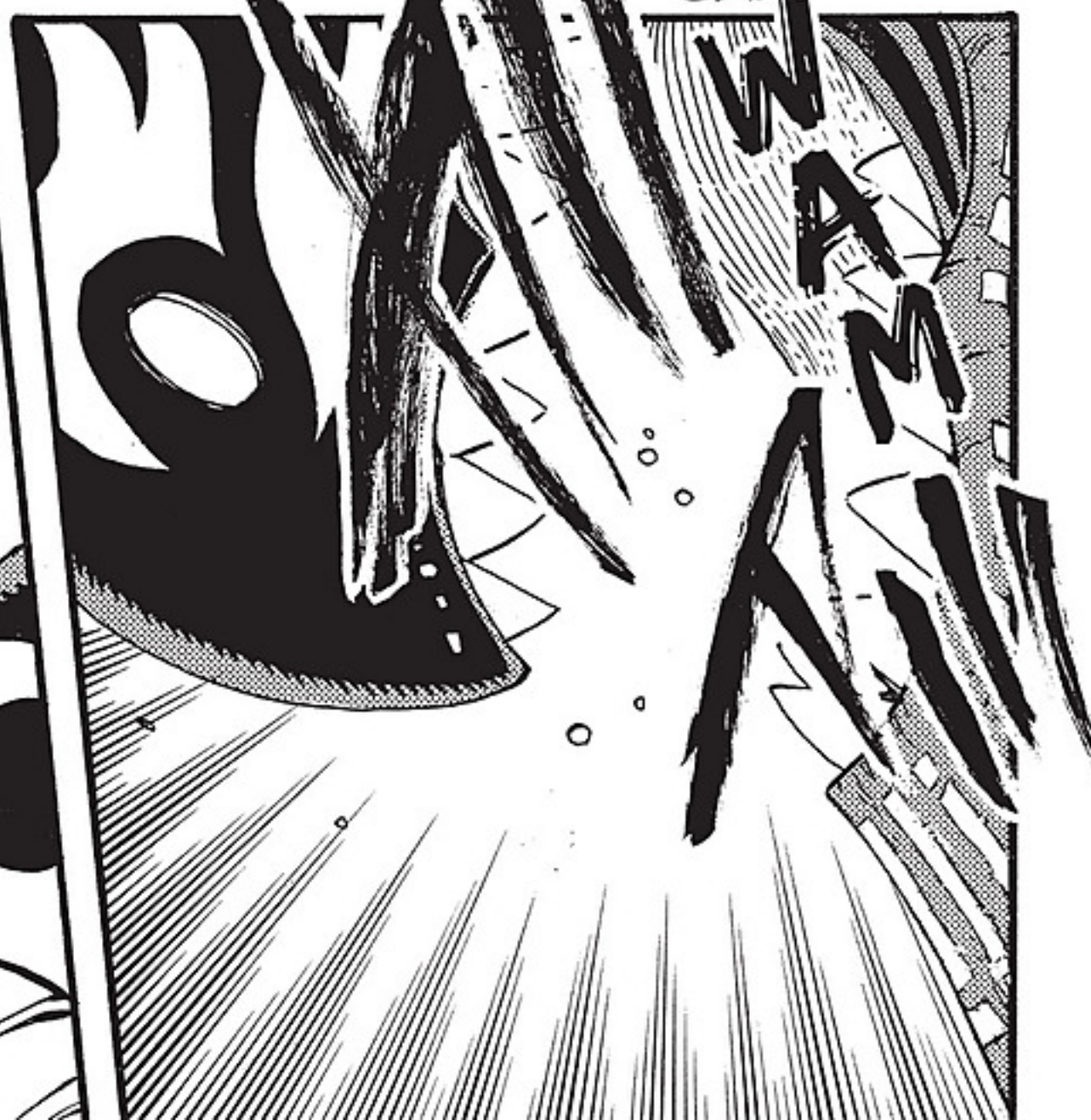
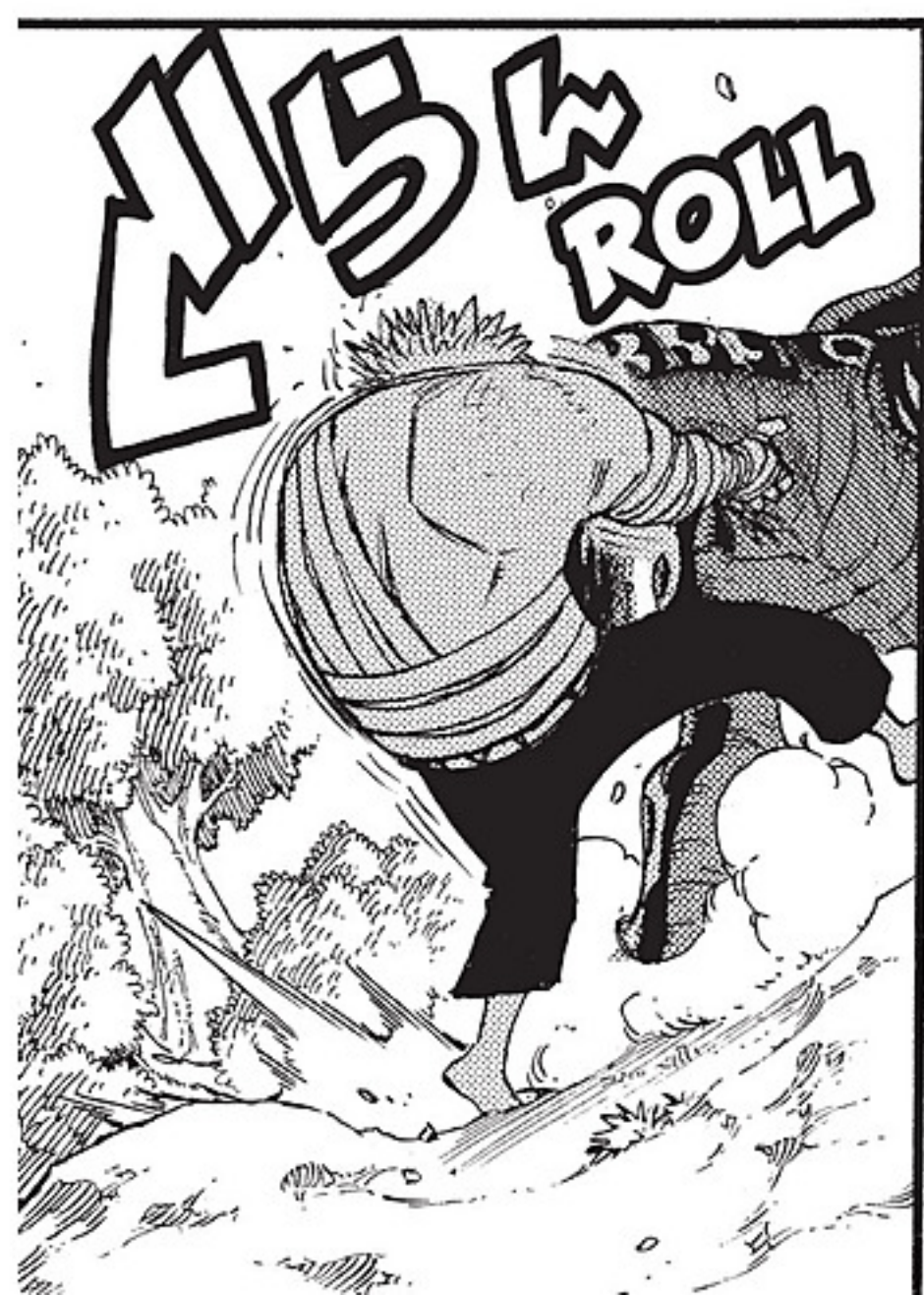


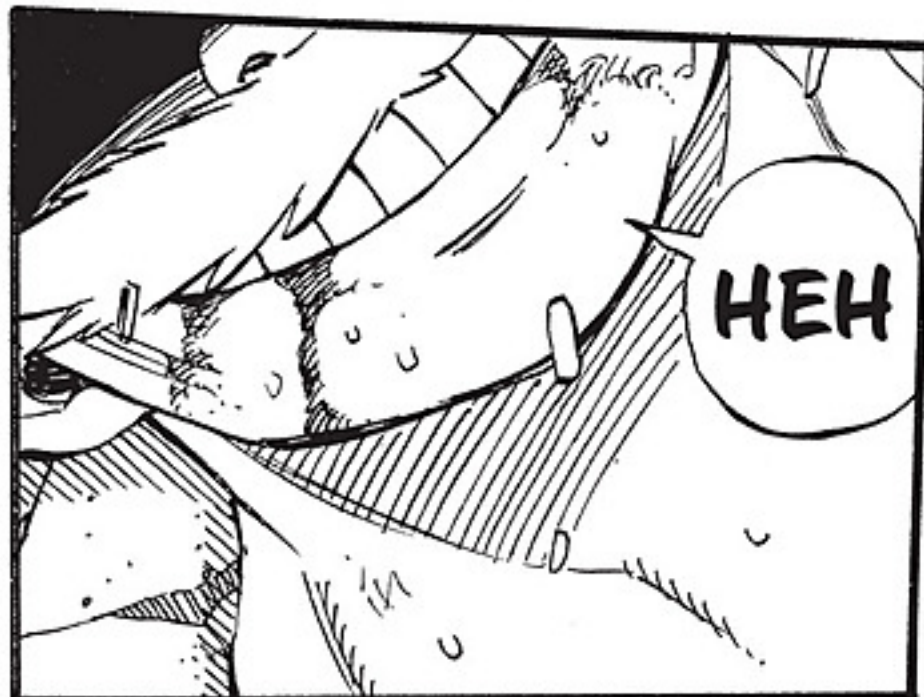
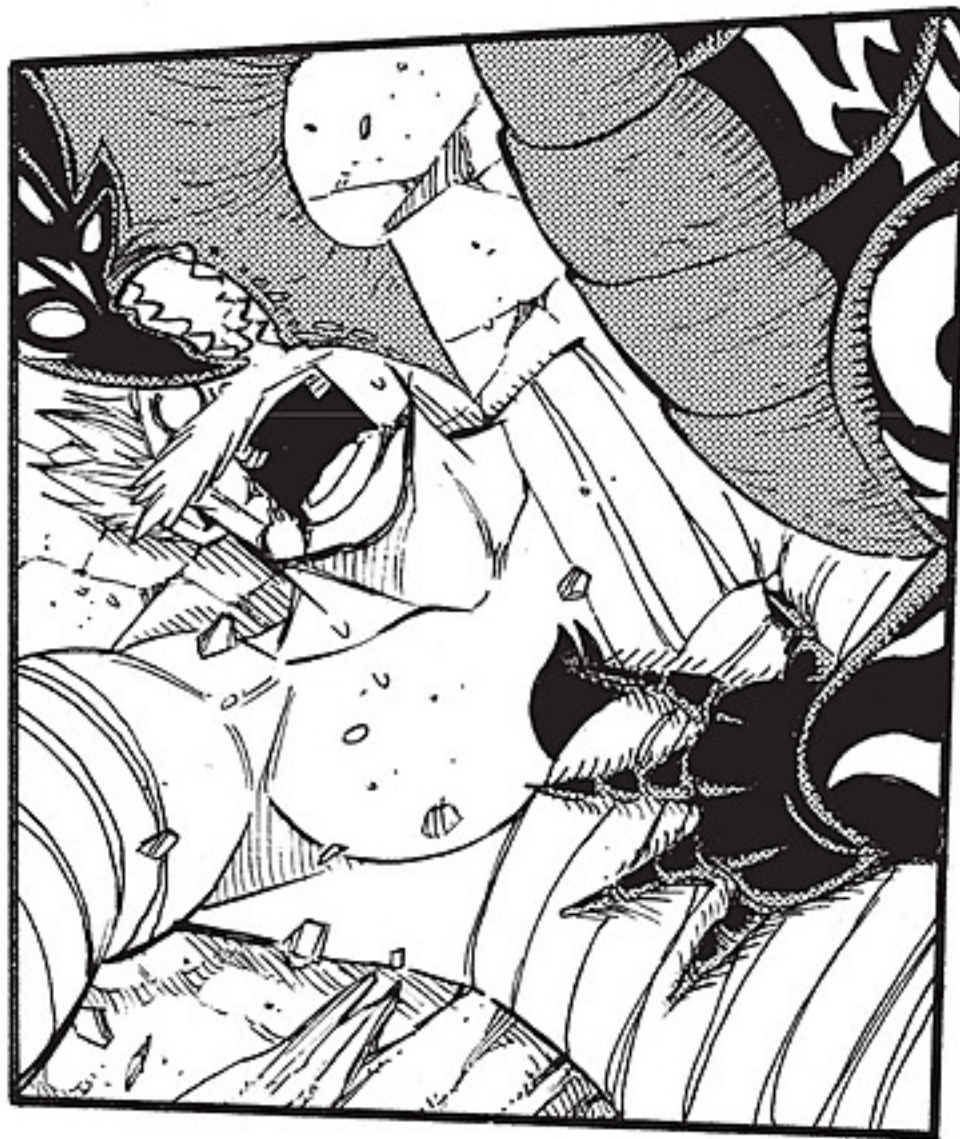
...but I'm not going to let you take one more step!!!!





**Because
those are
my kids
behind
me!!!!**







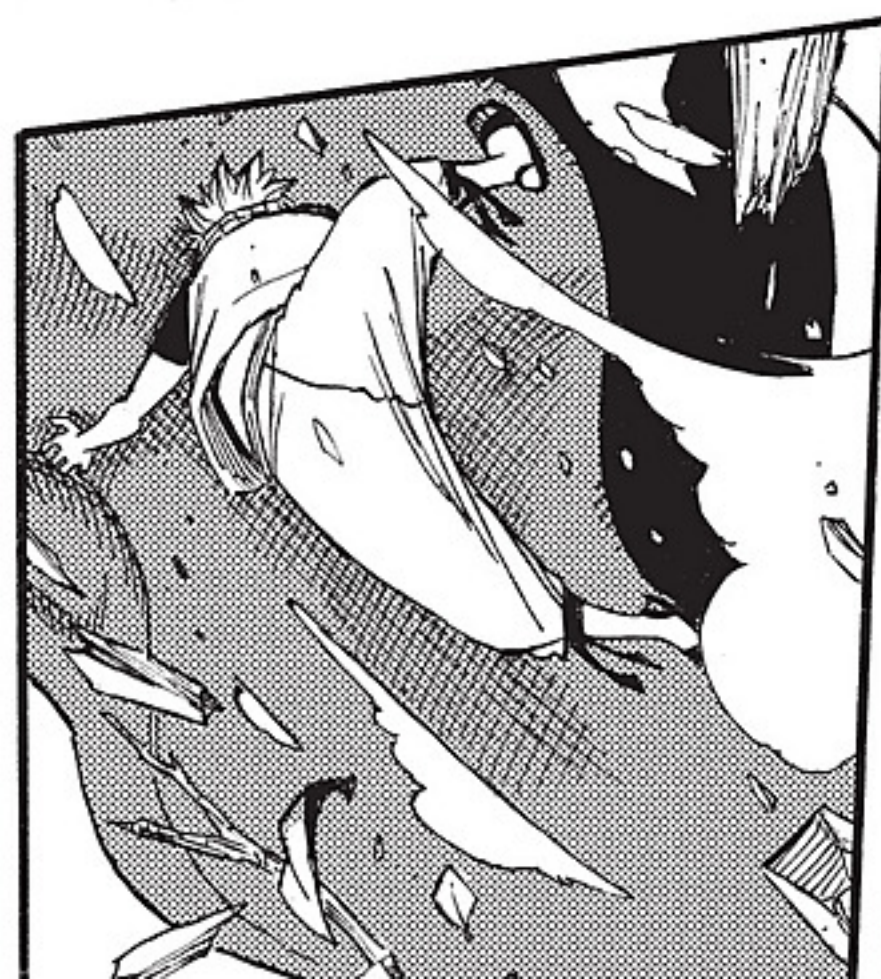
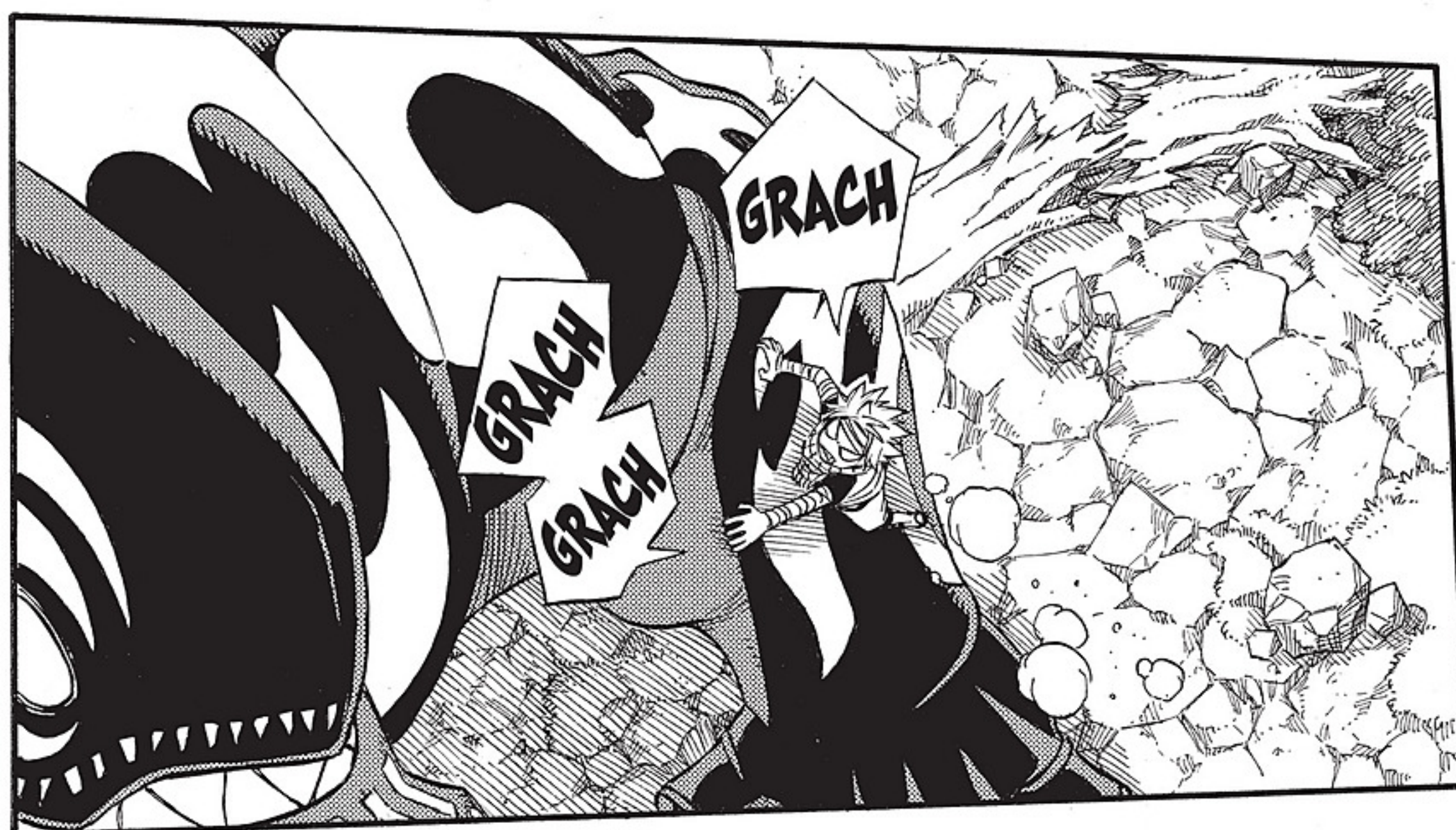
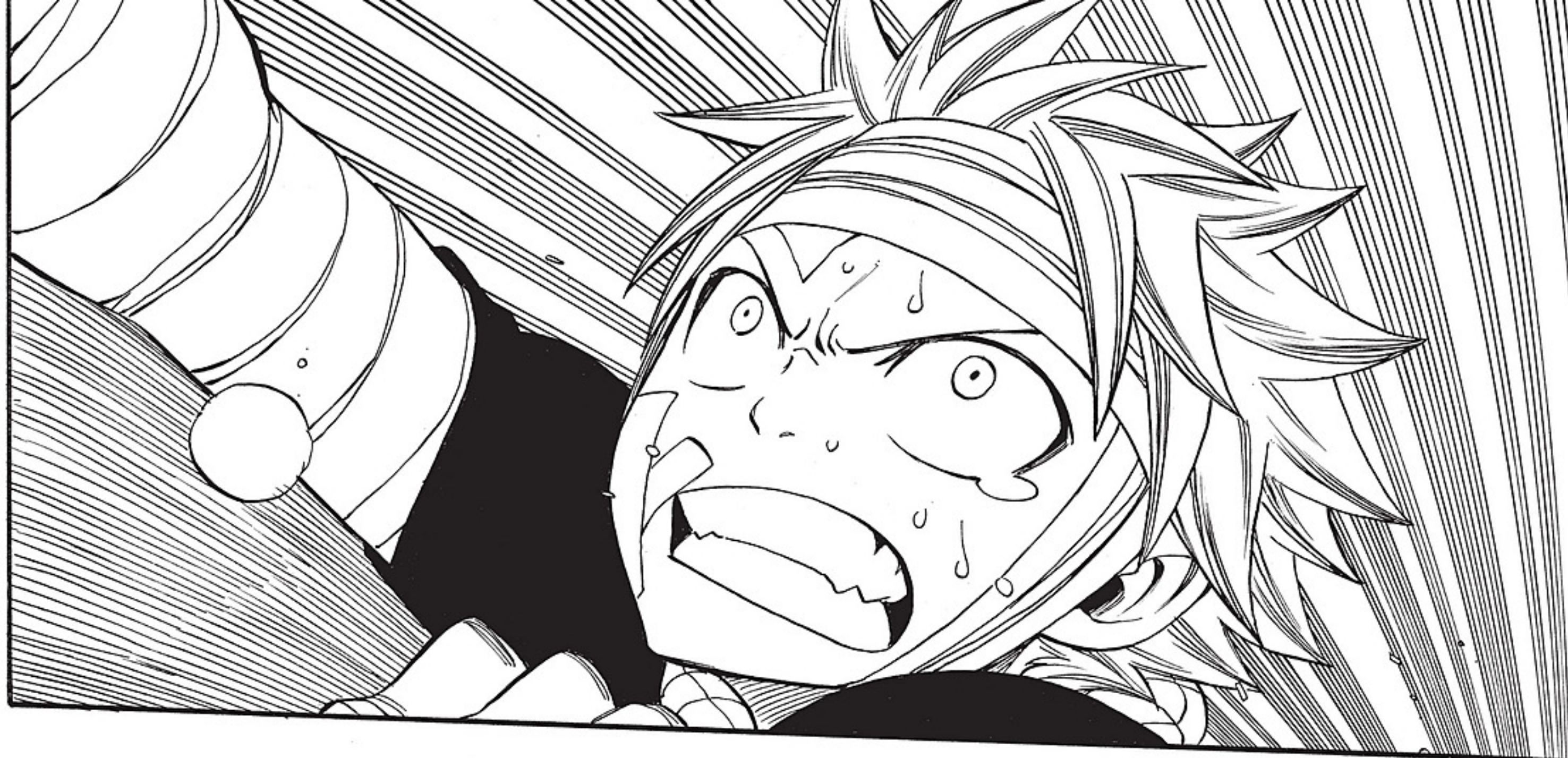
***At
last, I
have no
regrets
!!!!***

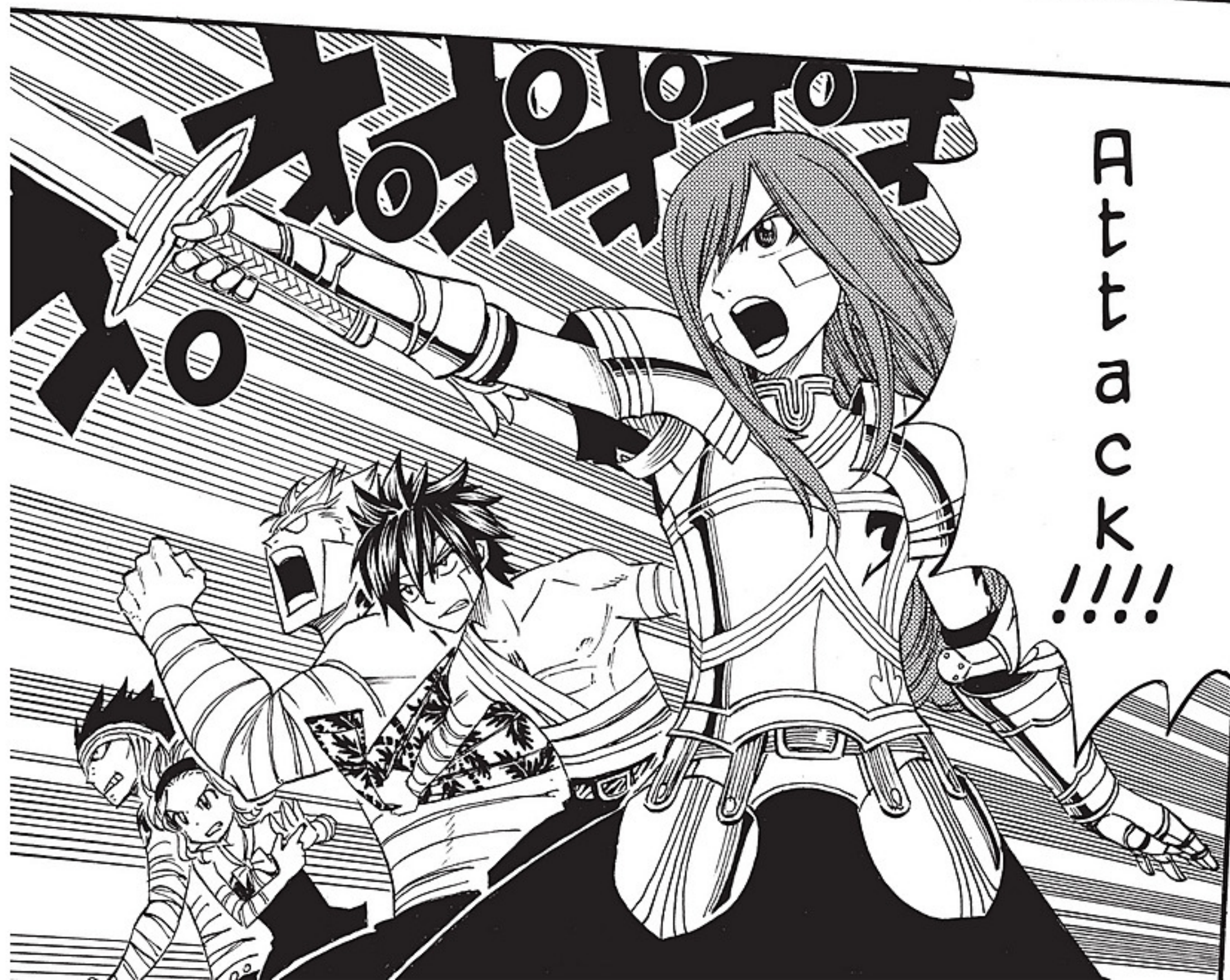
I finally...

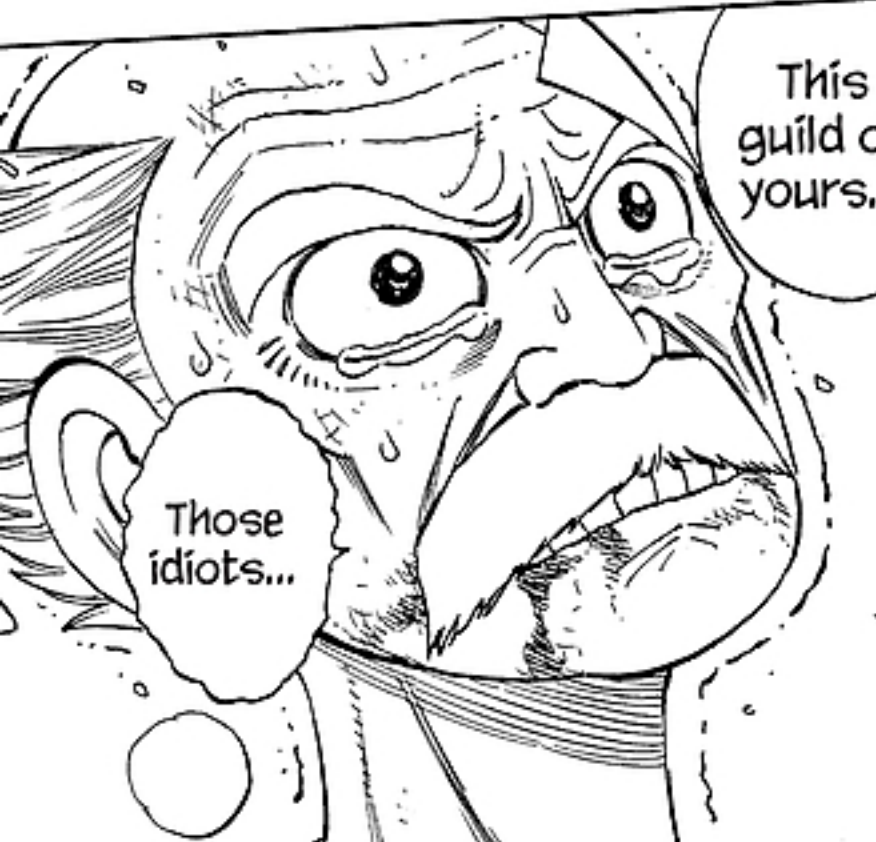
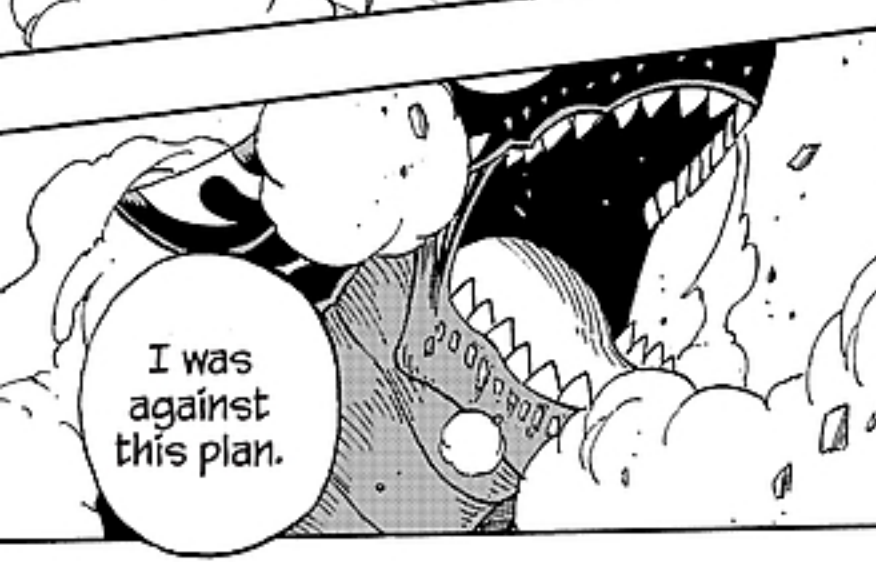
...acted like a father!

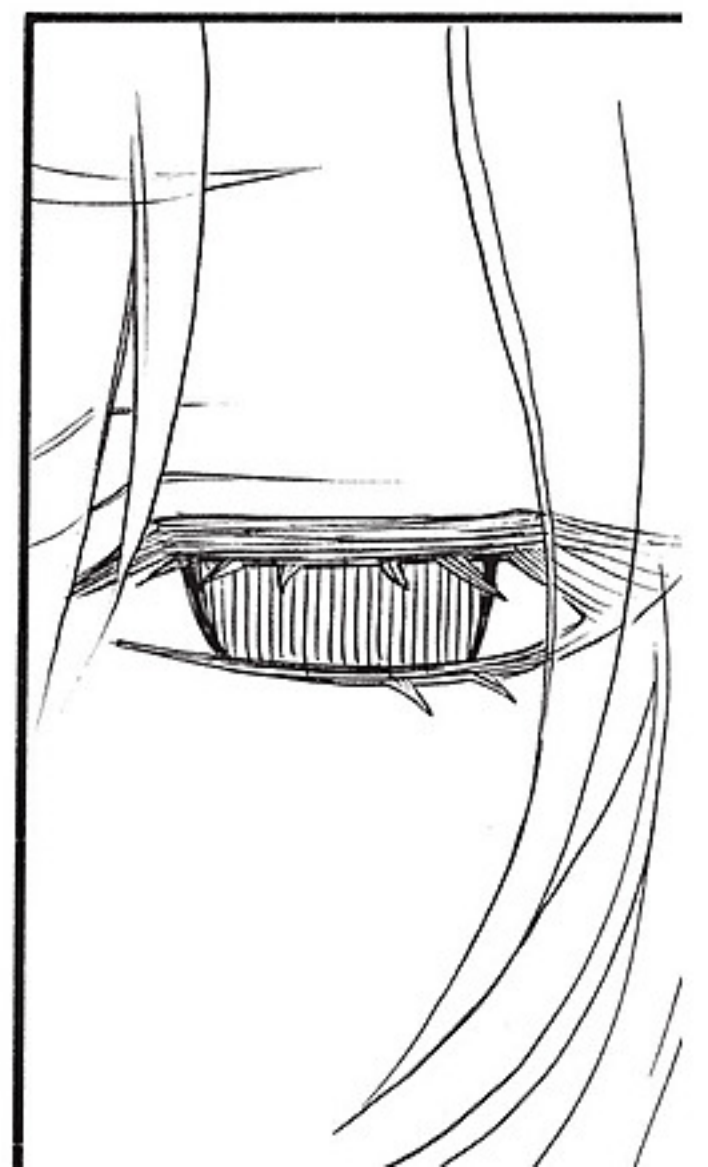
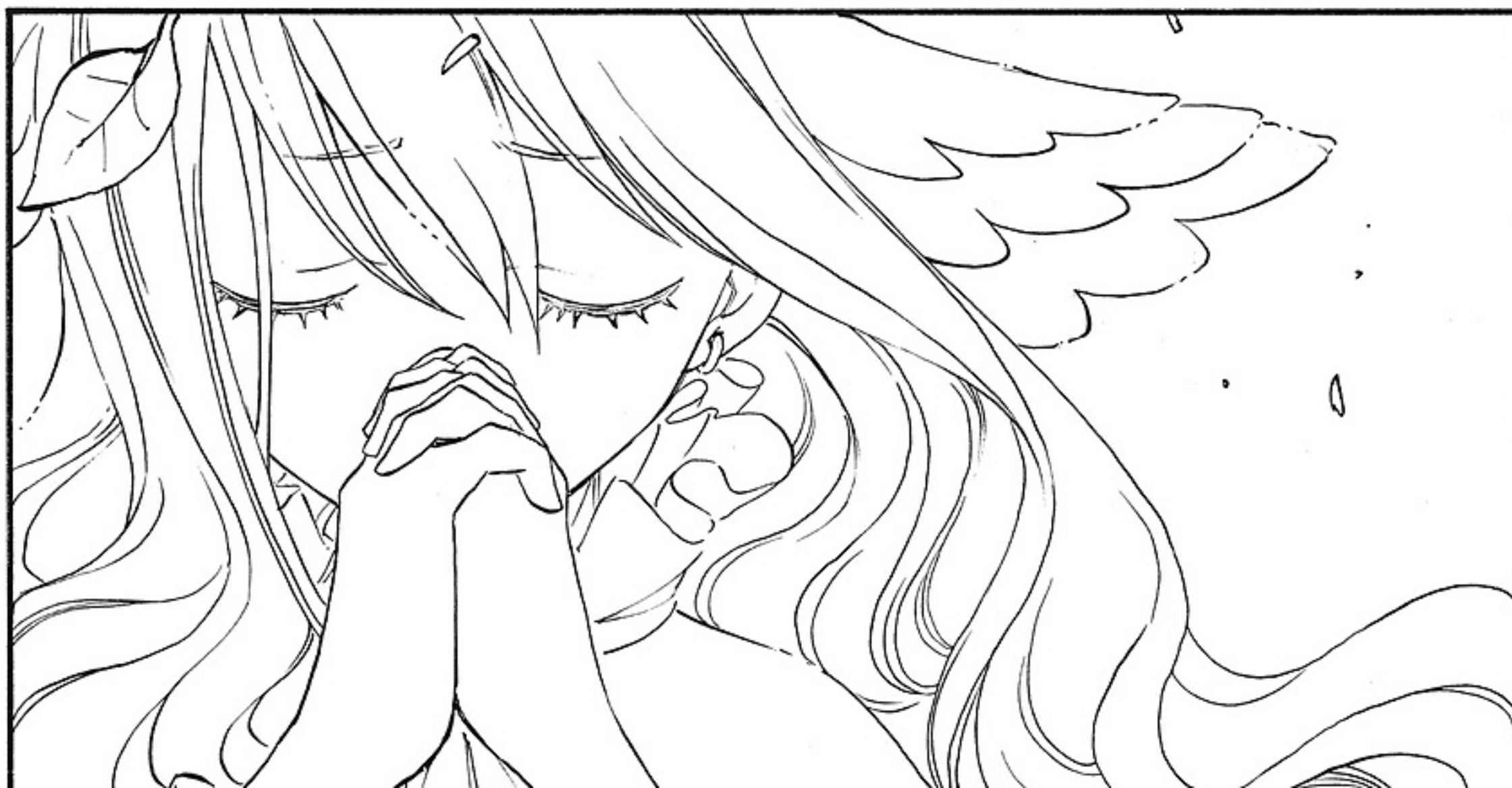
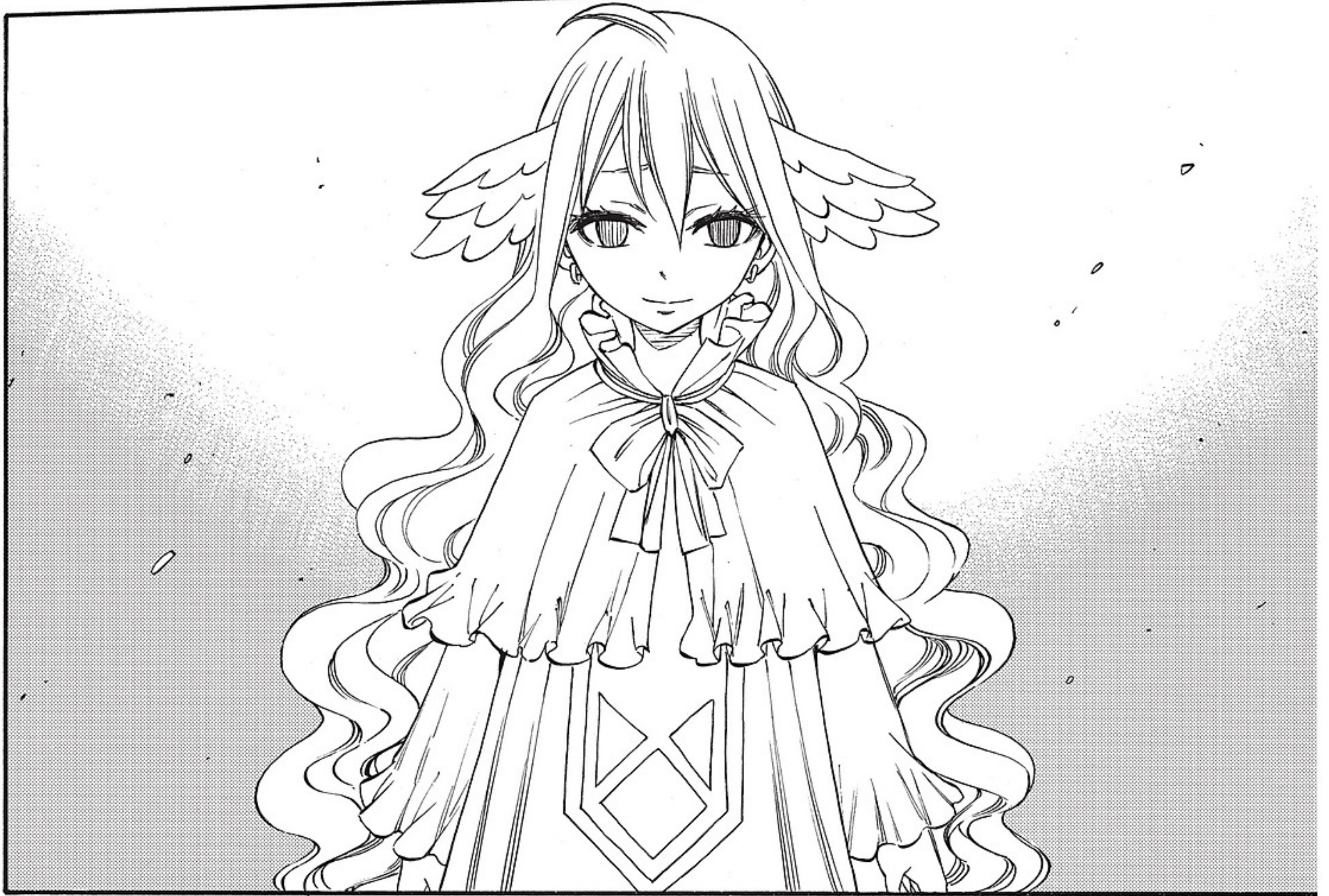
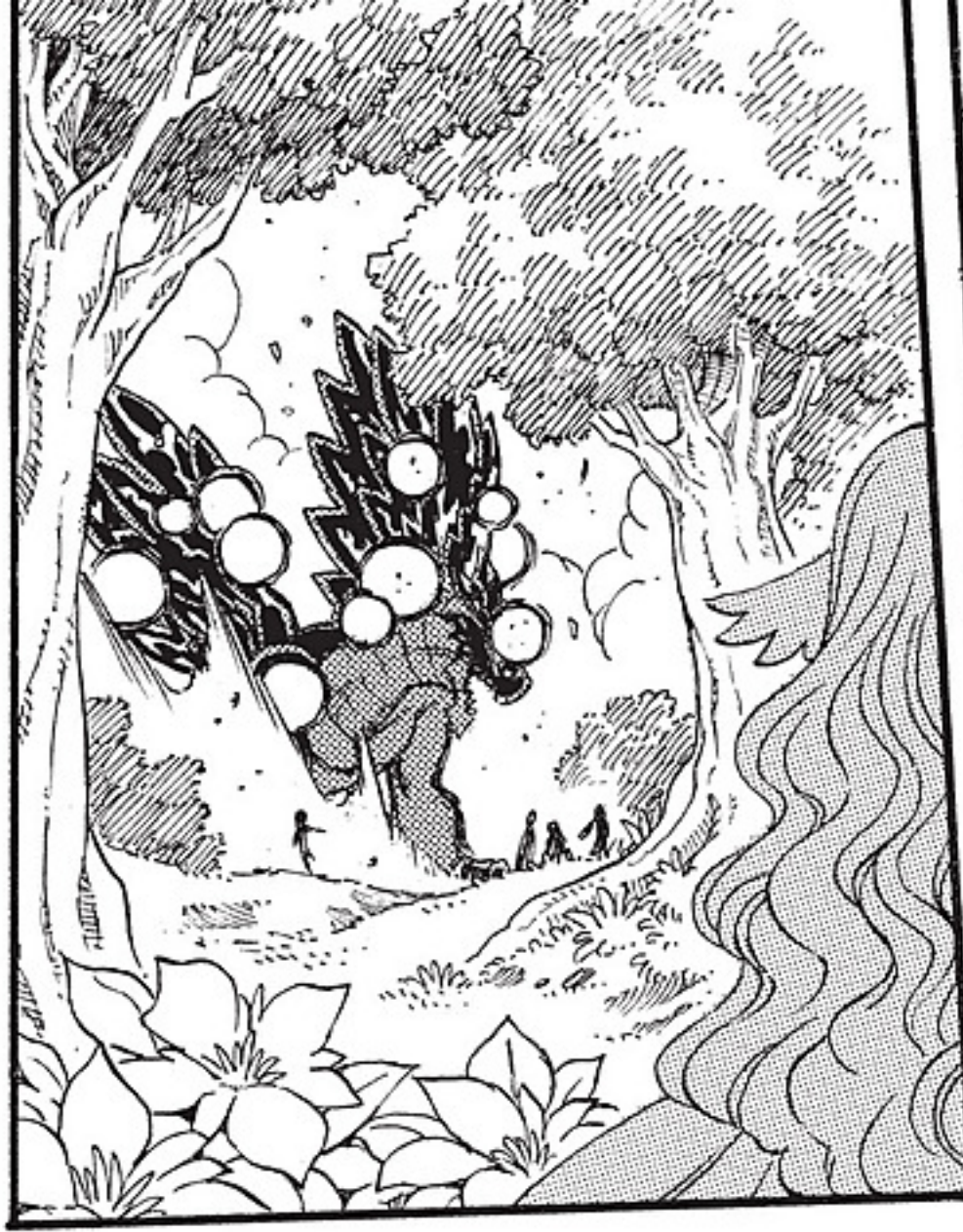
I finally...

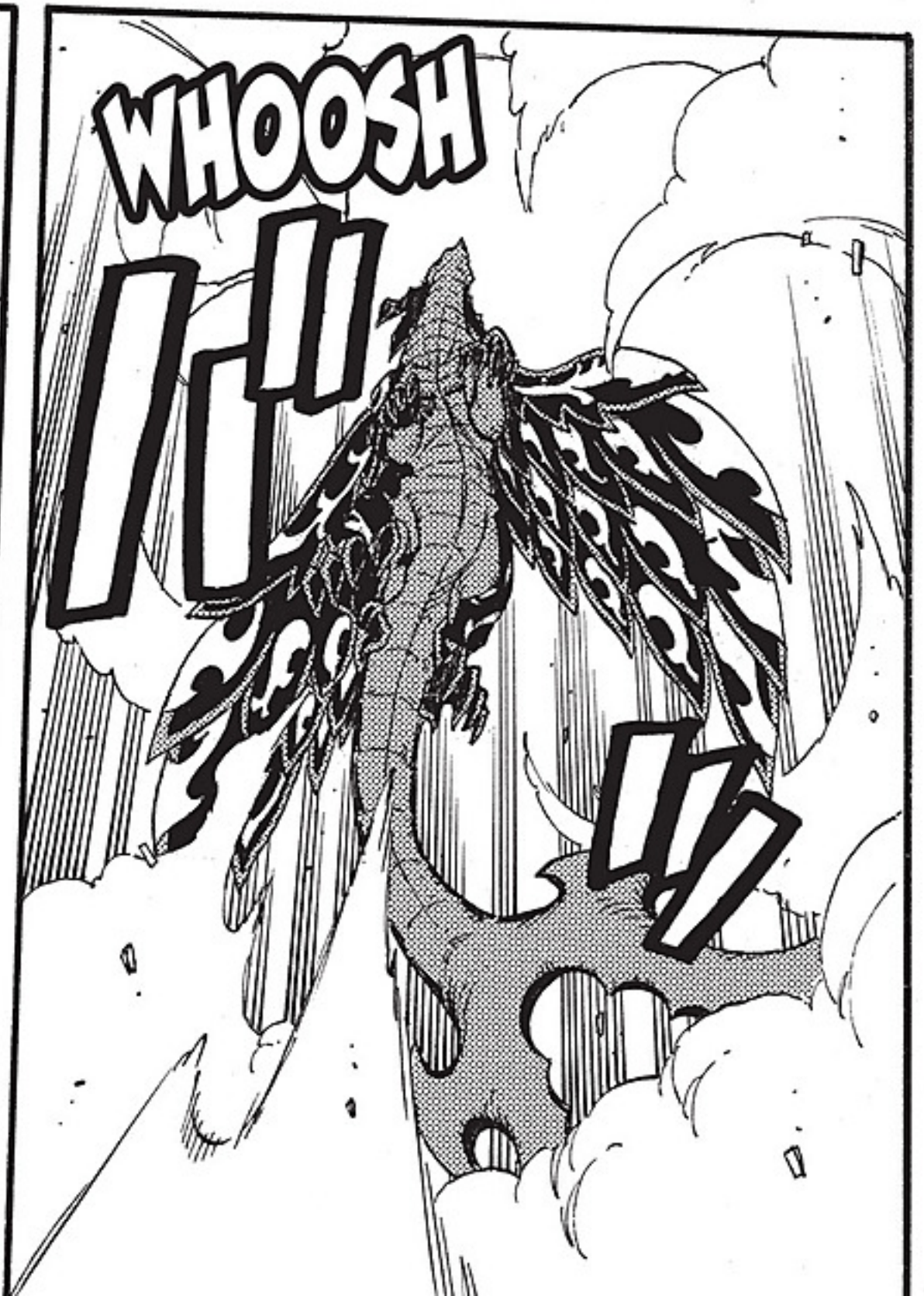
...acted like a father!













No way...

No...



Everybody...
concentrate
your power
on Fried and
Levy!!!



There are lots of other kinds of defensive word-based magic!!

There's
no time
to write a
Jutsu-
shiki!



Anyone with defensive magic, bring forth everything you have!!!!

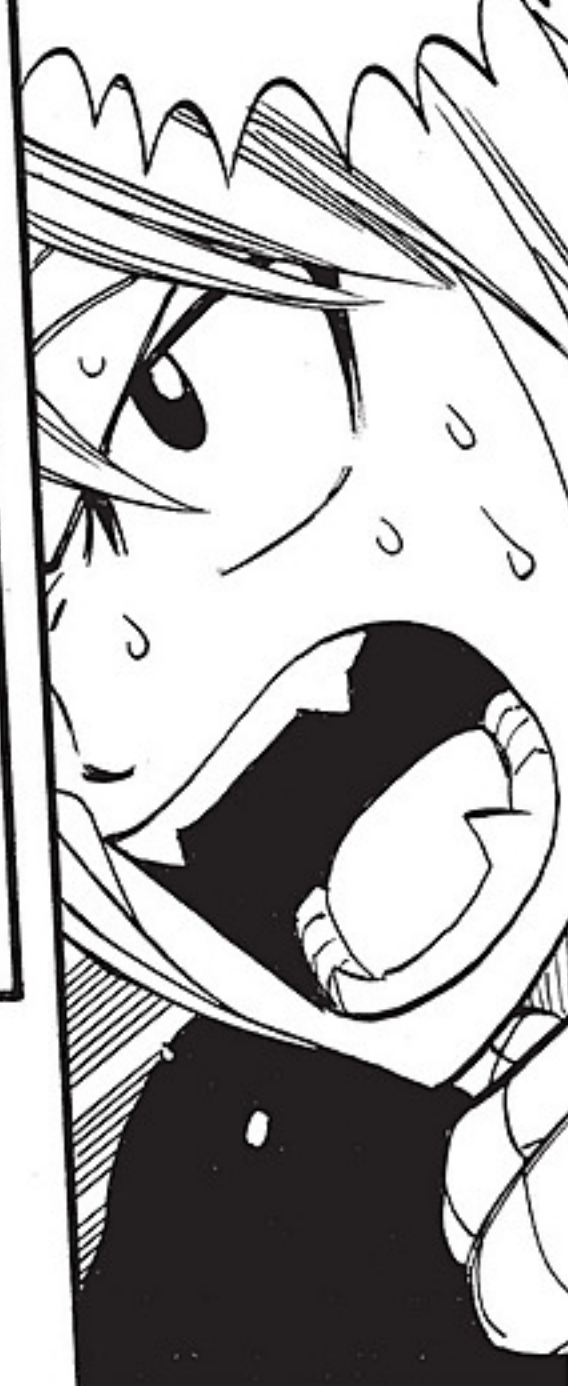
WHOOSH

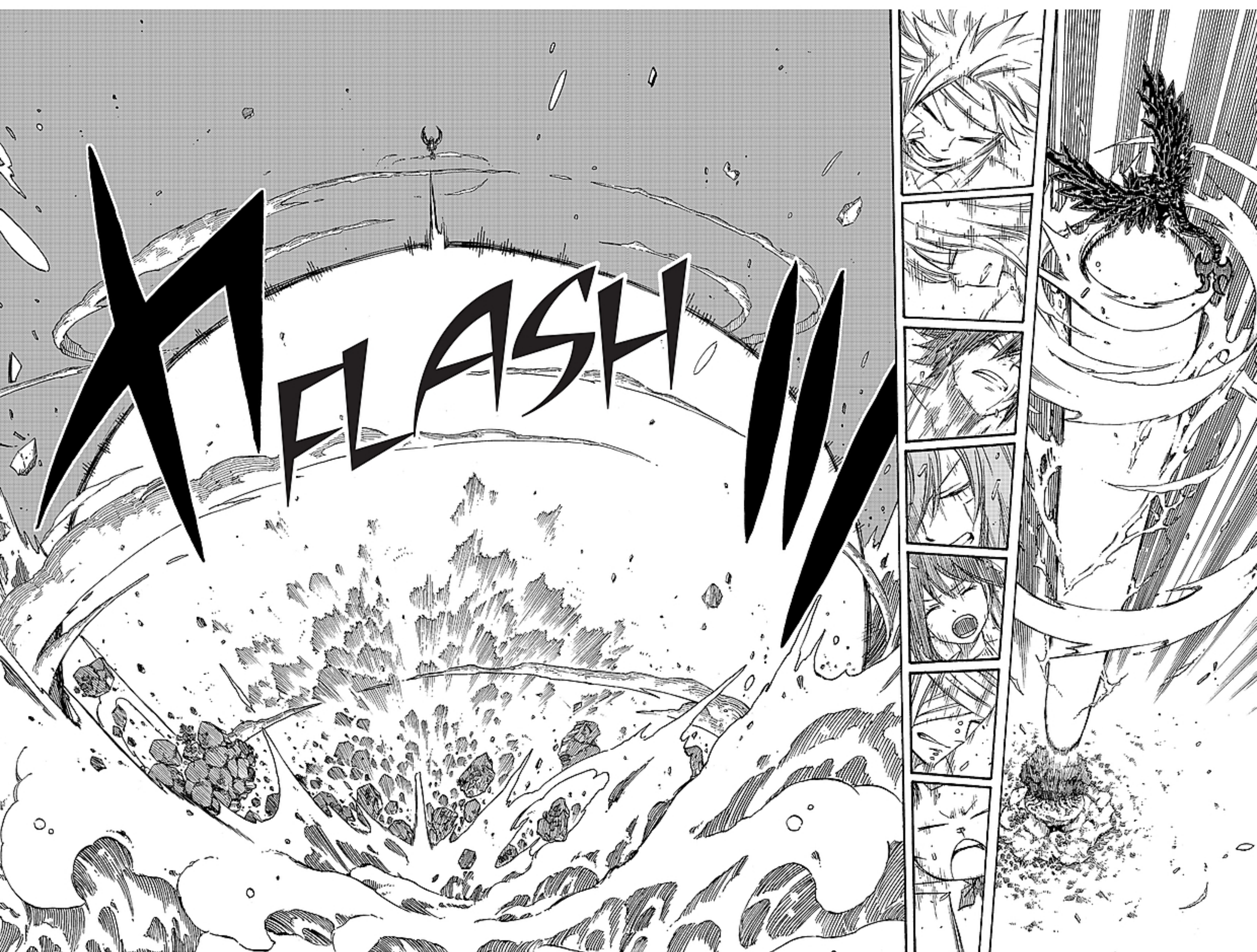


We have to
combine all our
power!!!! Let's
show 'im what
binds our guild
together!!!!

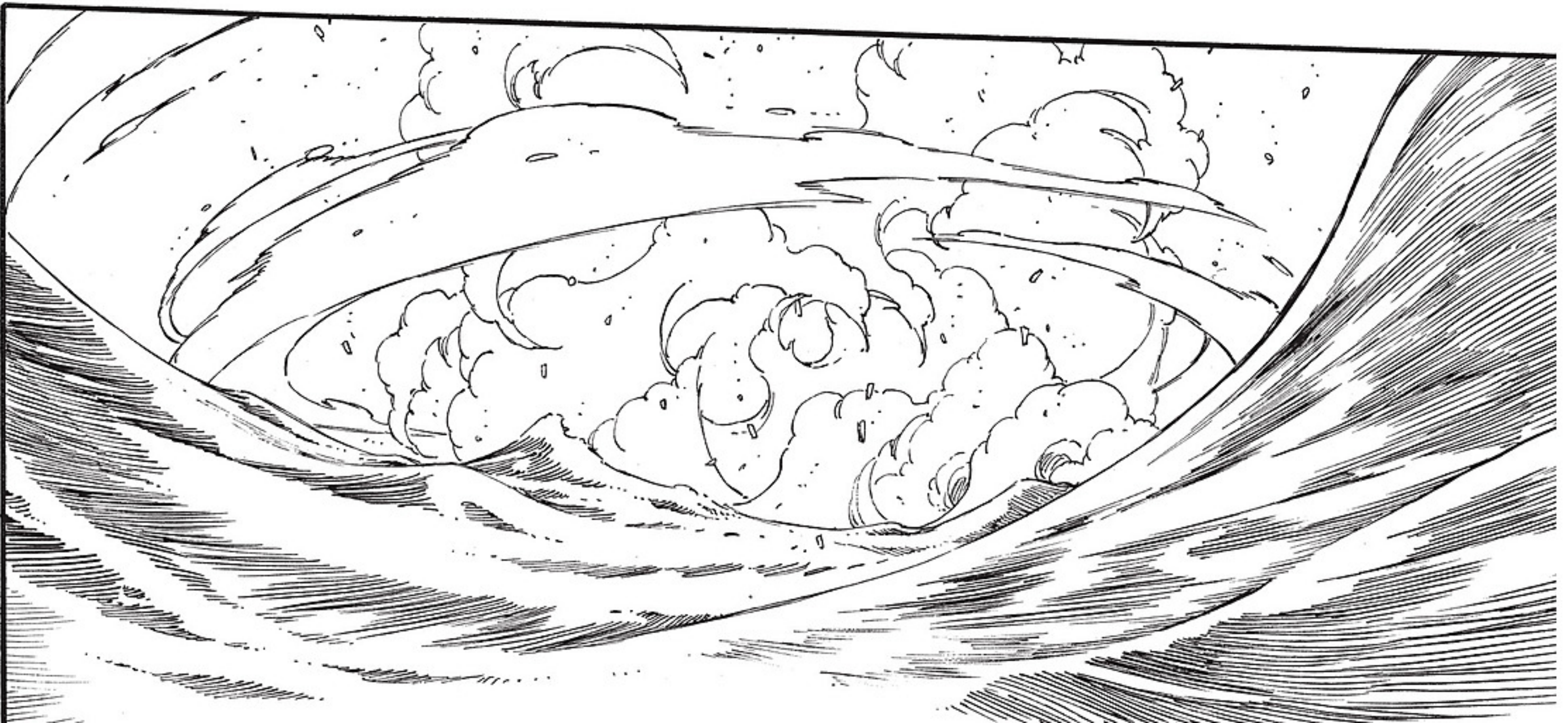
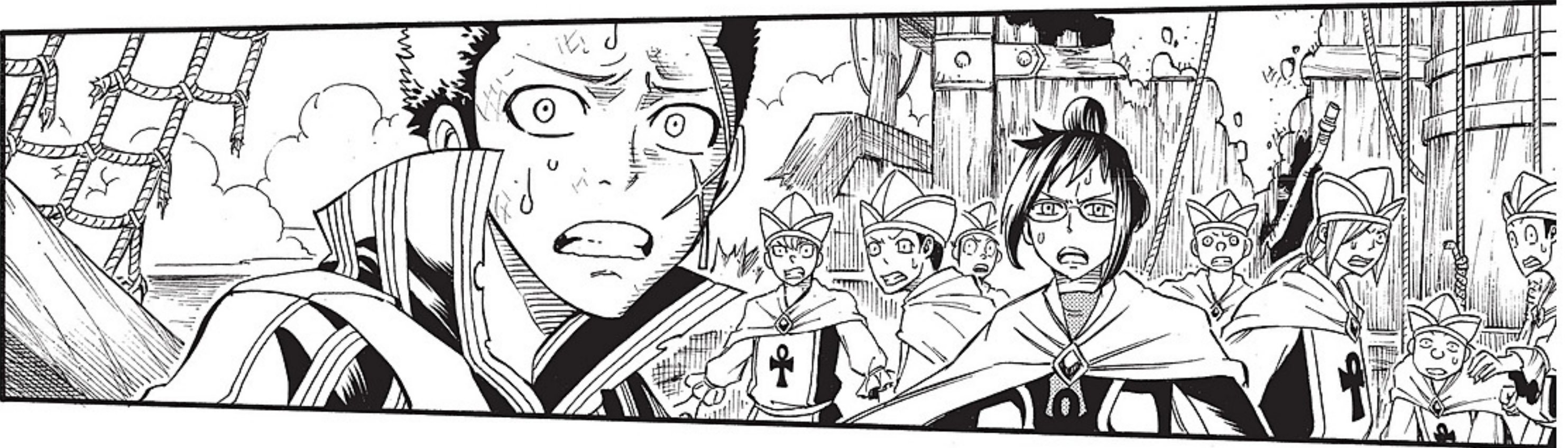
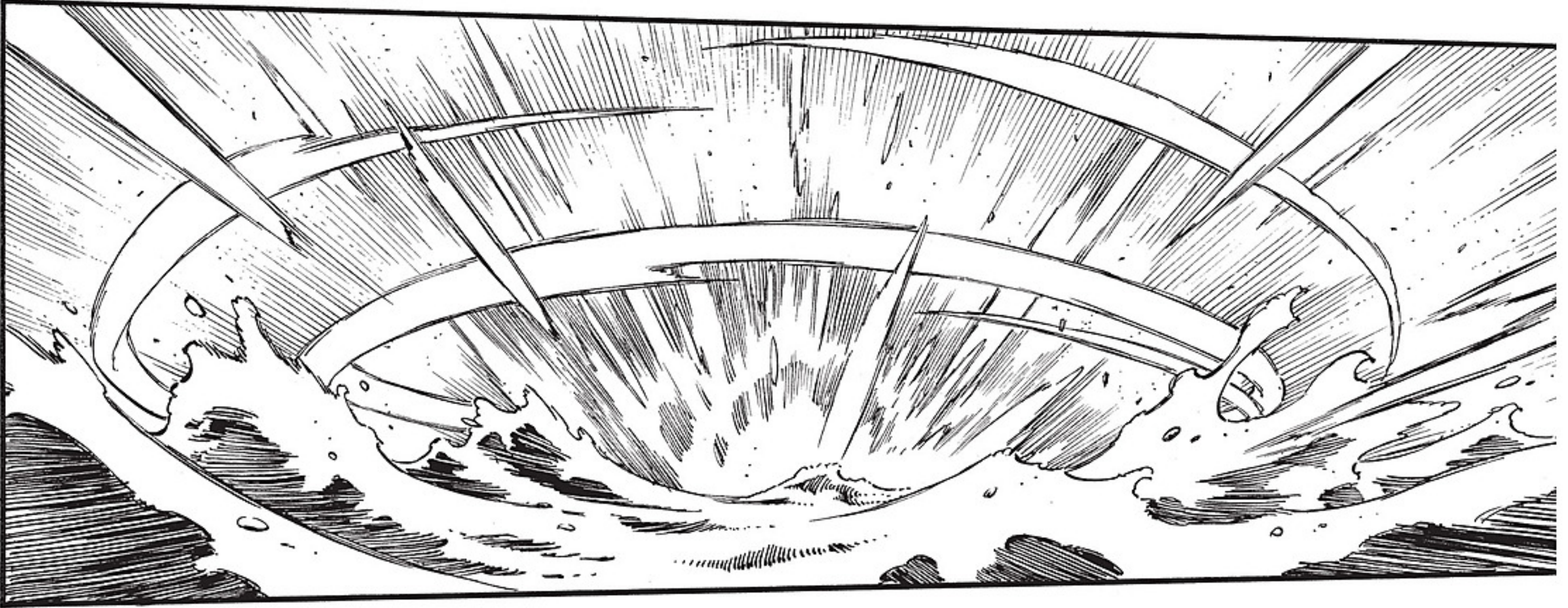


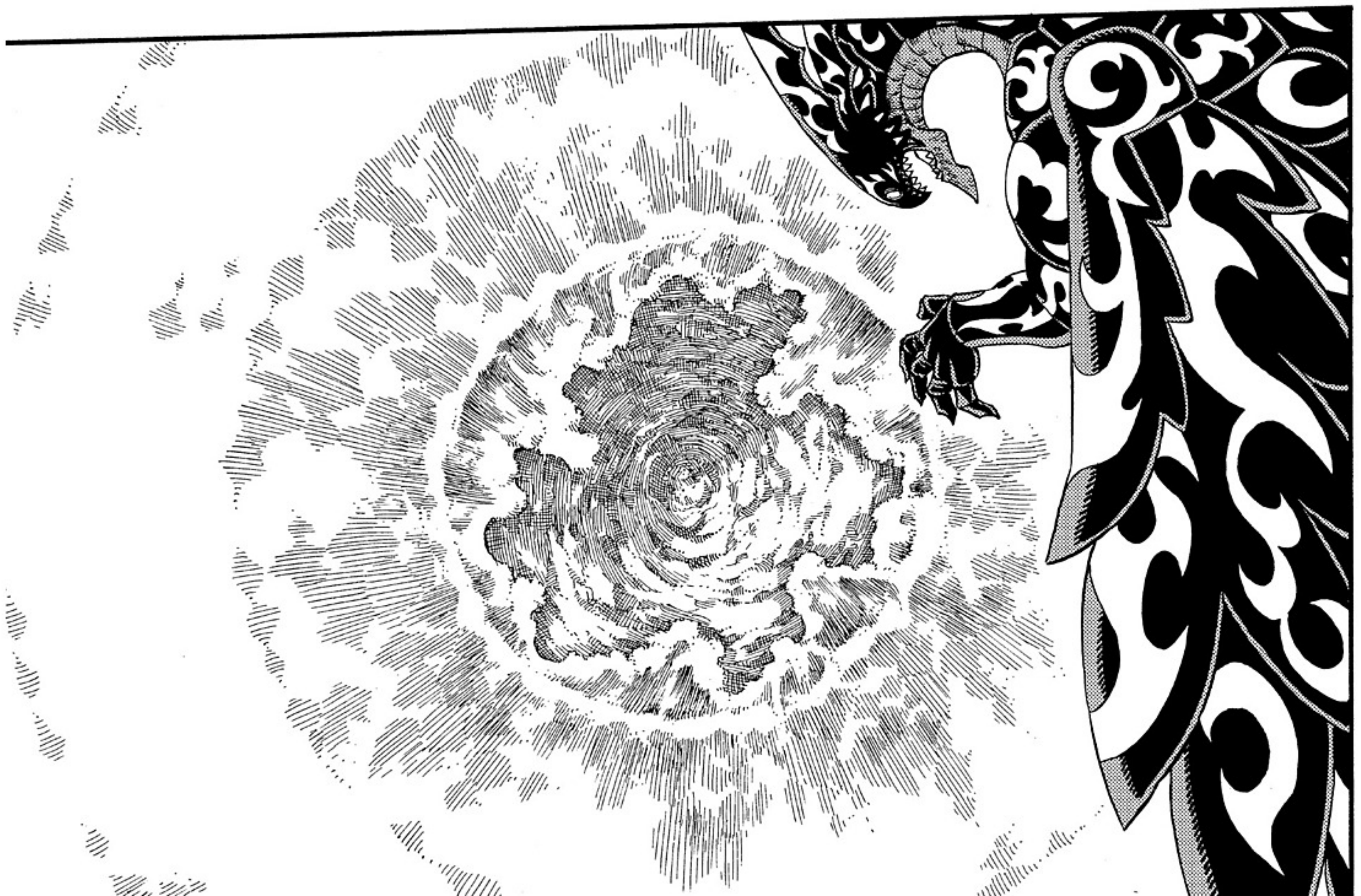
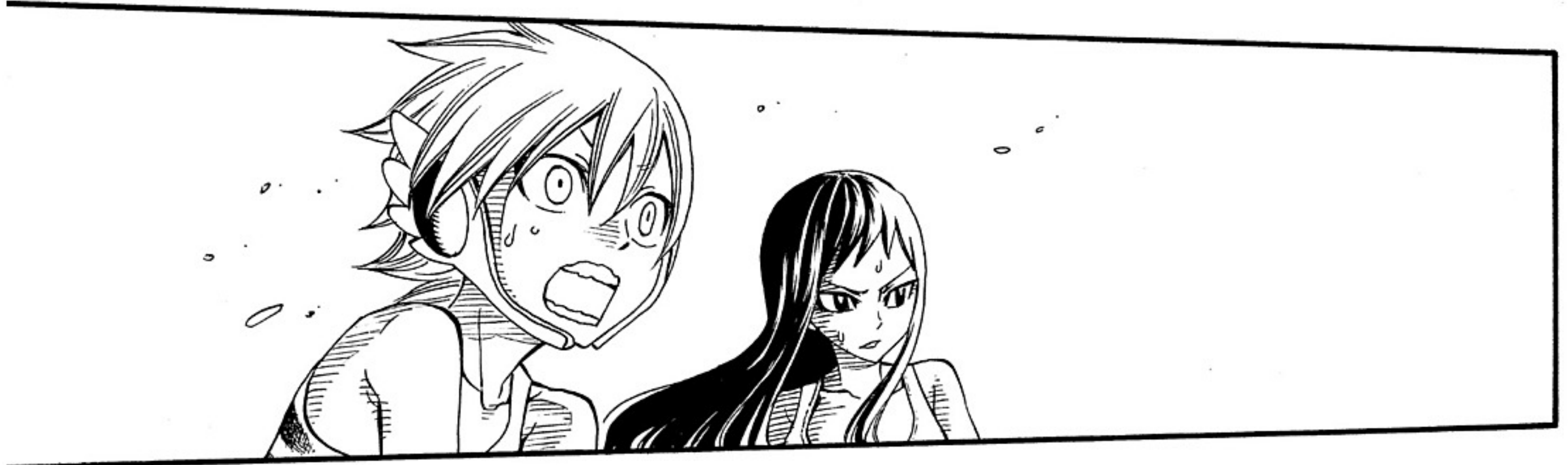
We're not gonna let this end here!!!!

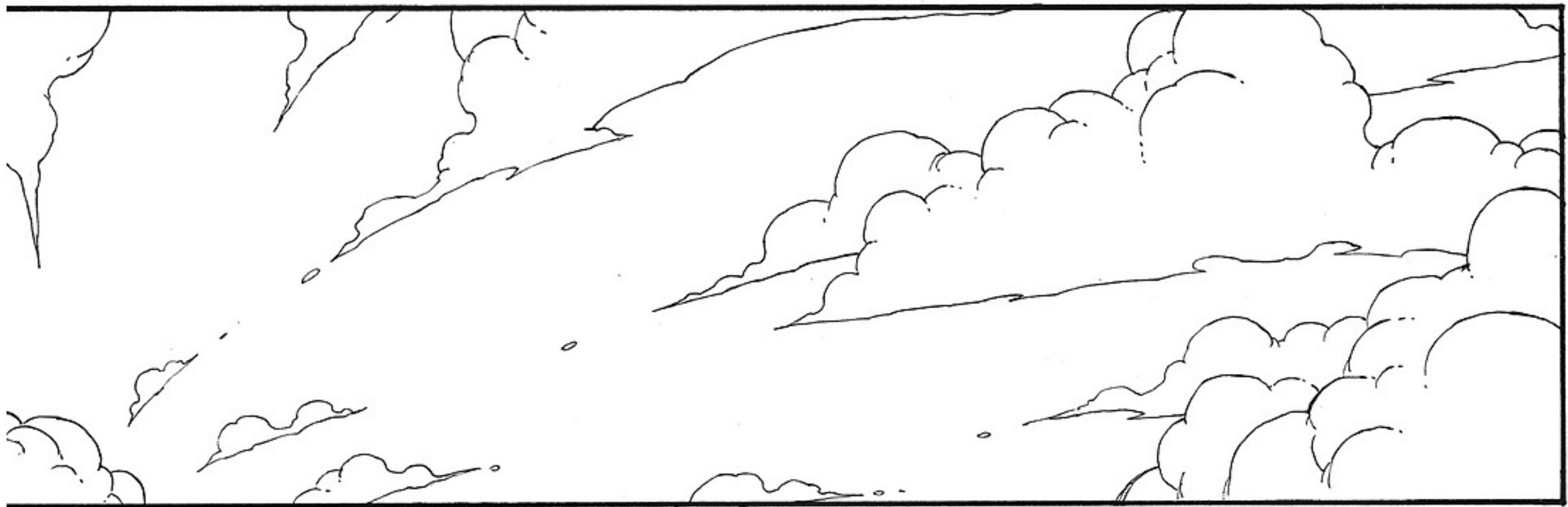
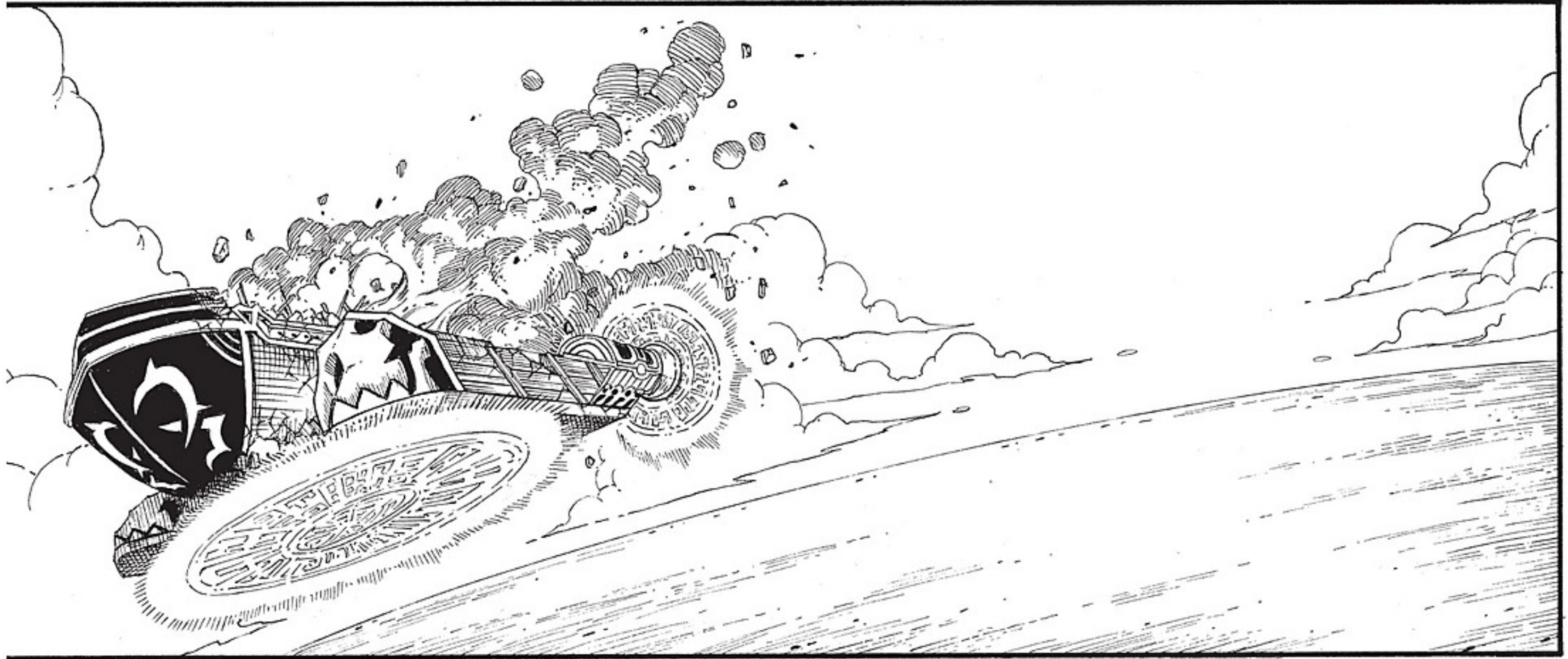






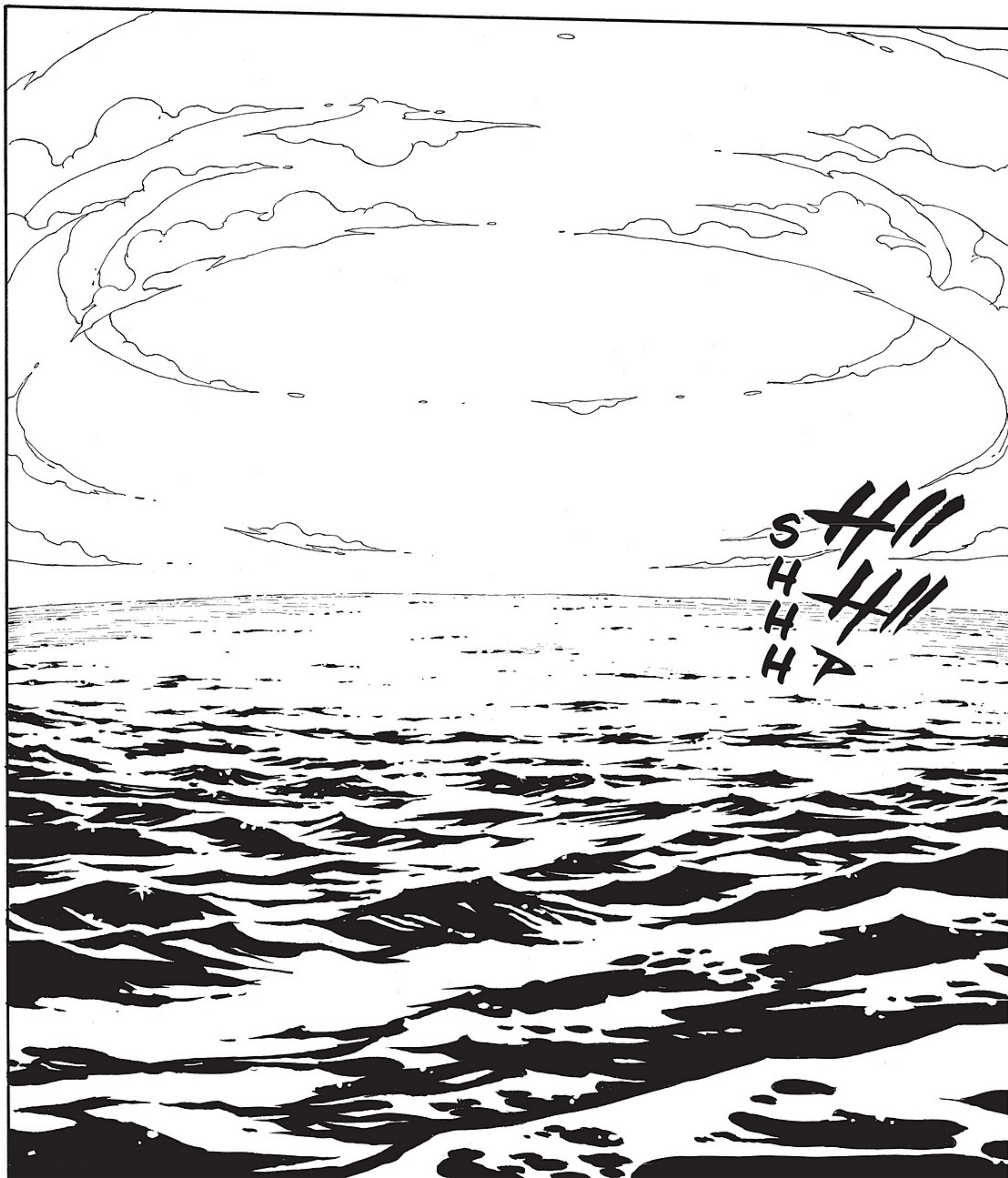
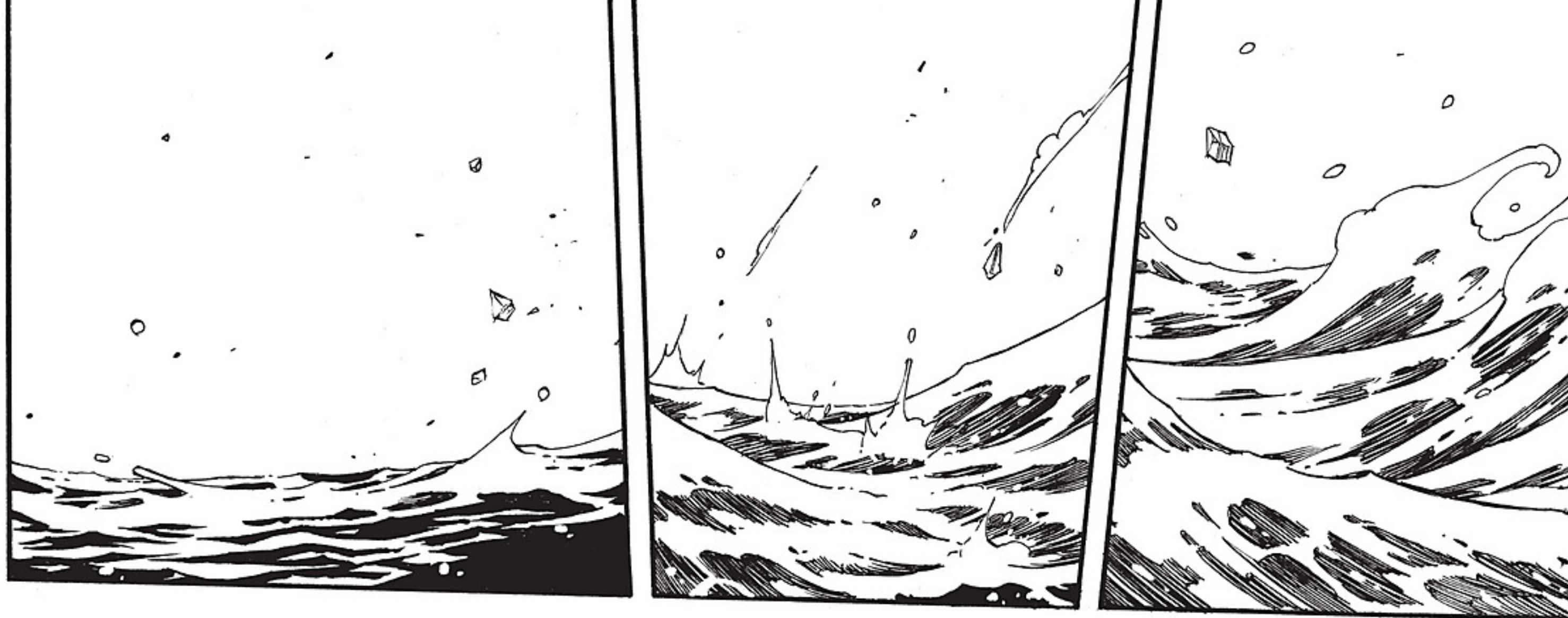






... Sirius
Island was
annihilated by
Acnologia.

On
December
16 in
the year
X784...



...but
found
no sur-
vivors.



For the
next six
months,
ships
combed
the area,
search-
ing...

Then,
Acho-
logia
disap-
peared
again.



...seven
years
passed.

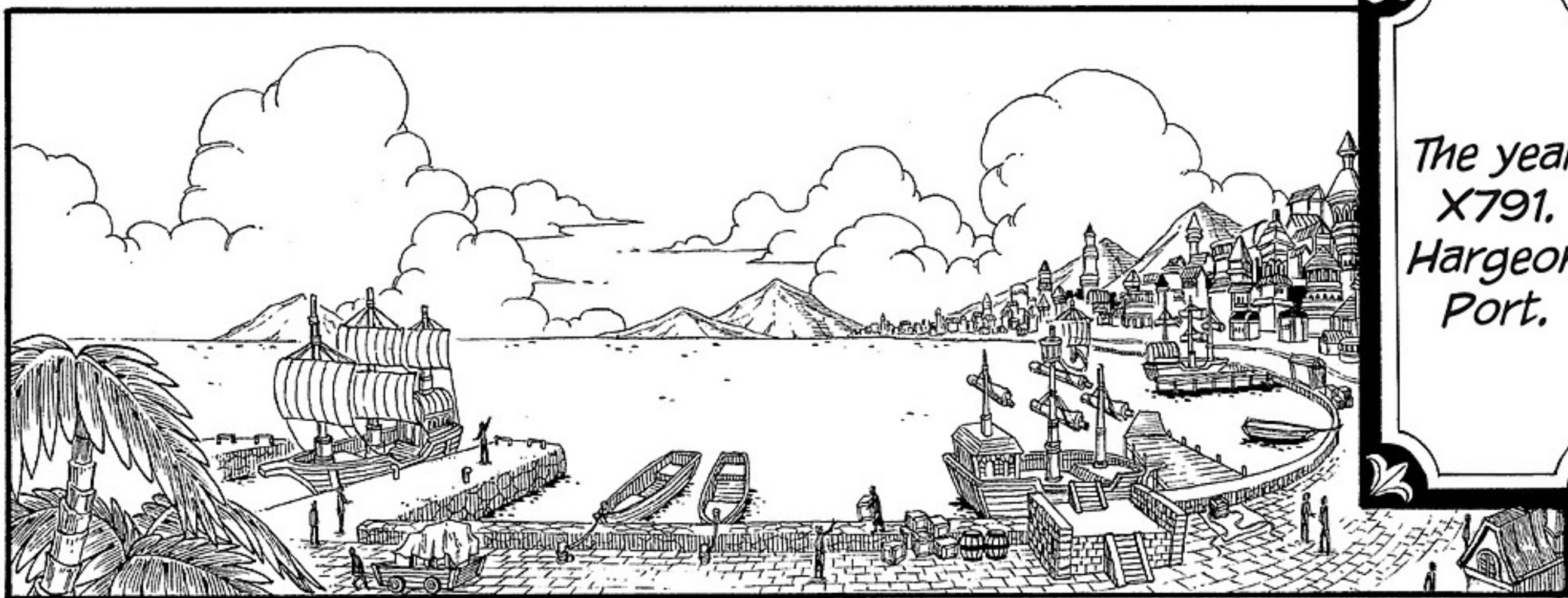
And
so...



FAIRY TAIL

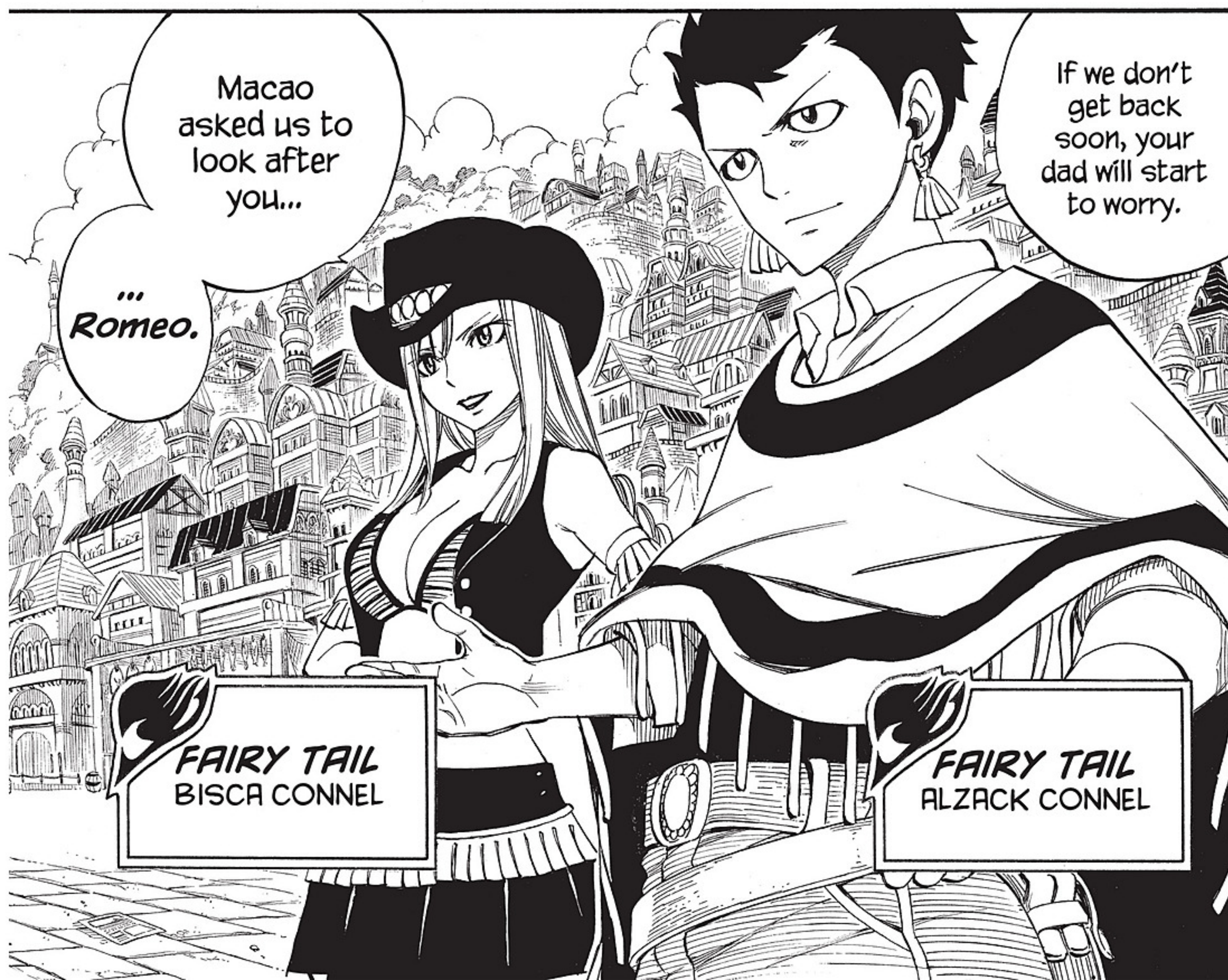
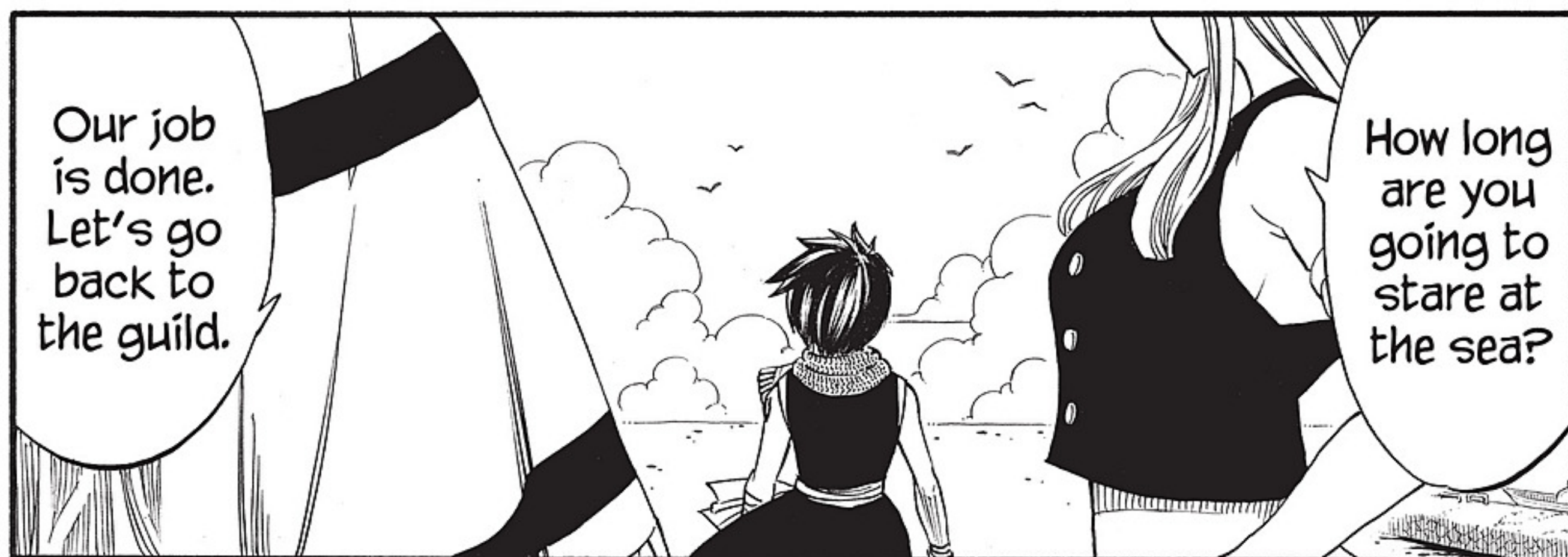
Chapter 254:
Fairy Tail, X791

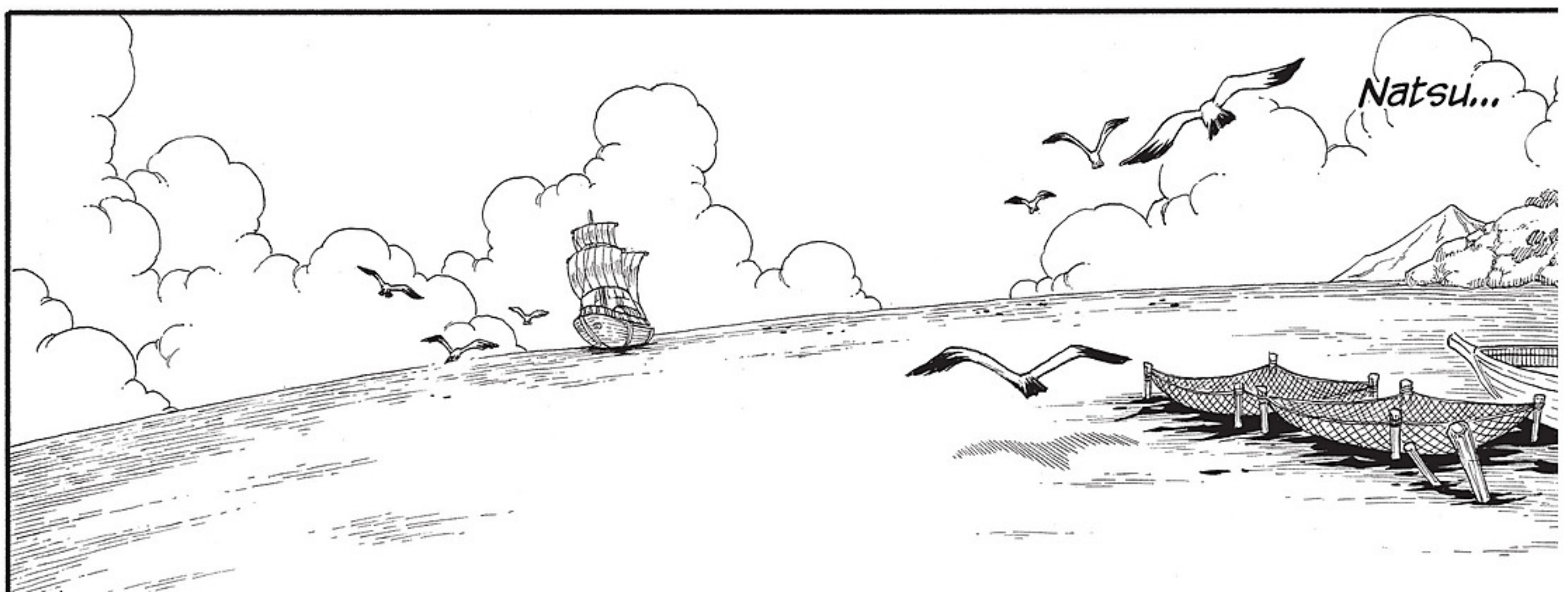
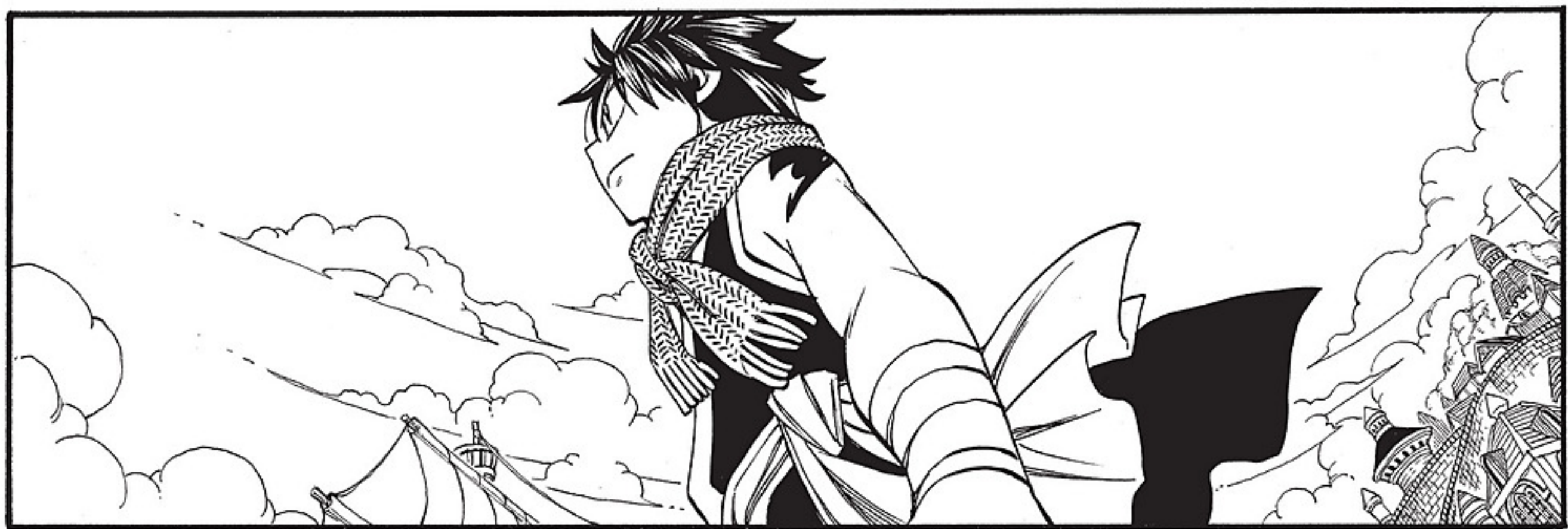
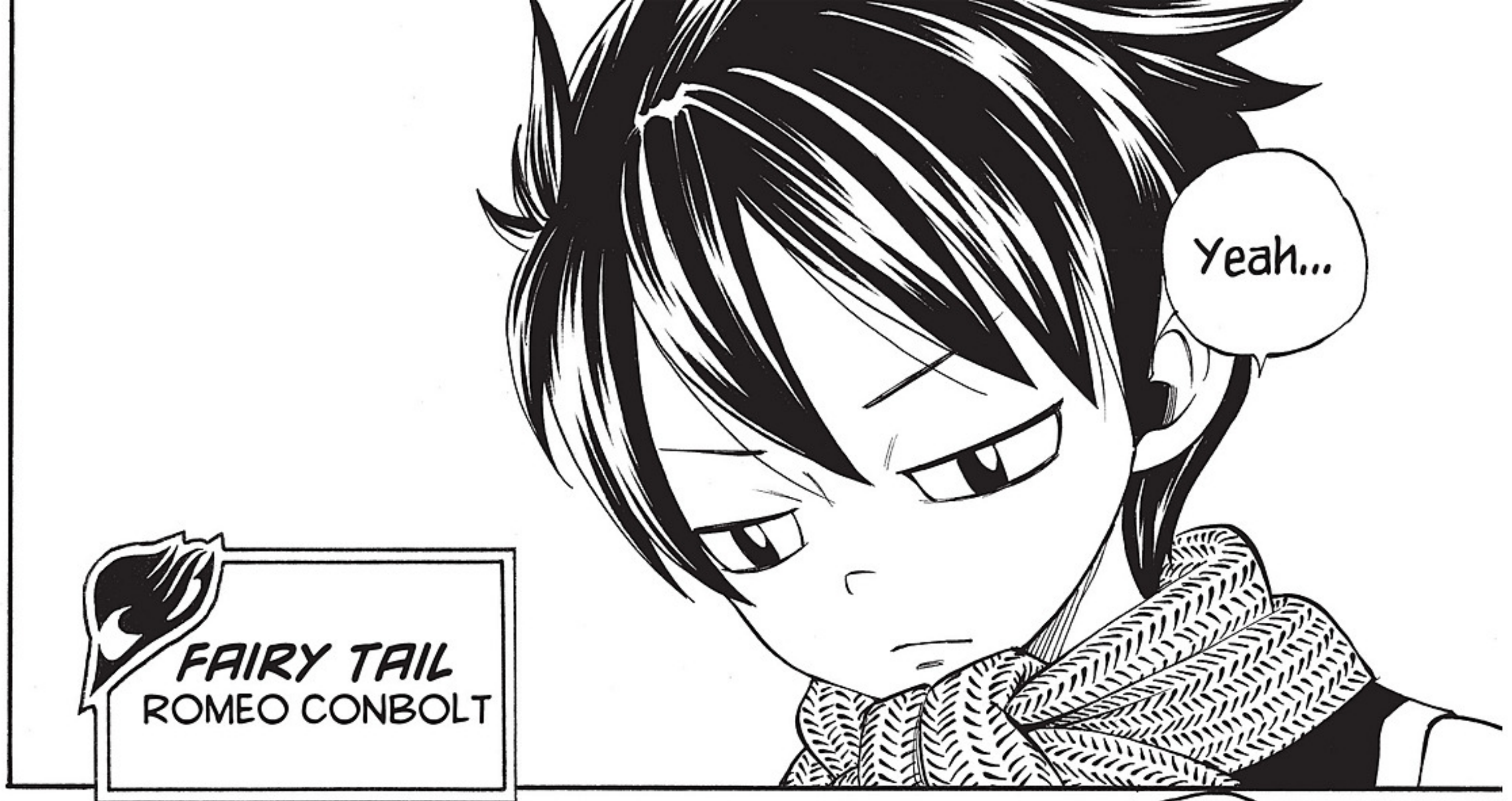
Hiro Mashima



*The year
X791.
Hargeon
Port.*









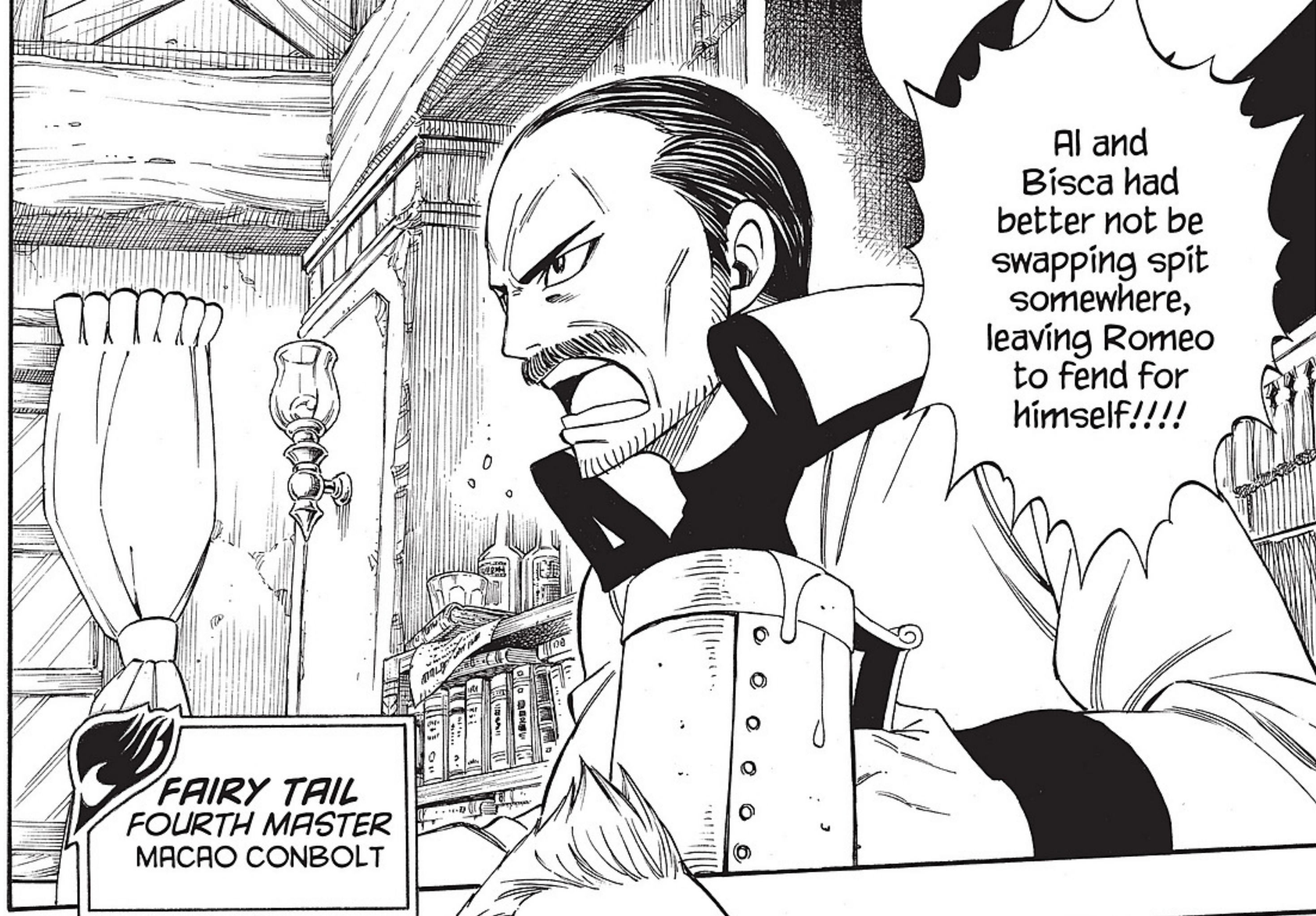
Mag-
nolia.



The
wizard
guild
Fairy
Tail.



Isn't
Romeo
back
yet?!!



Al and
Bisca had
better not be
swapping spit
somewhere,
leaving Romeo
to fend for
himself!!!!

FAIRY TAIL
FOURTH MASTER
MACAO CONBOLT



Aw, shaddap!
You're too old for
temper tantrums!
Calm down a bit,
huh, Macao?

FAIRY TAIL
ADVISOR TO THE
FOURTH MASTER
WAKABA MINE

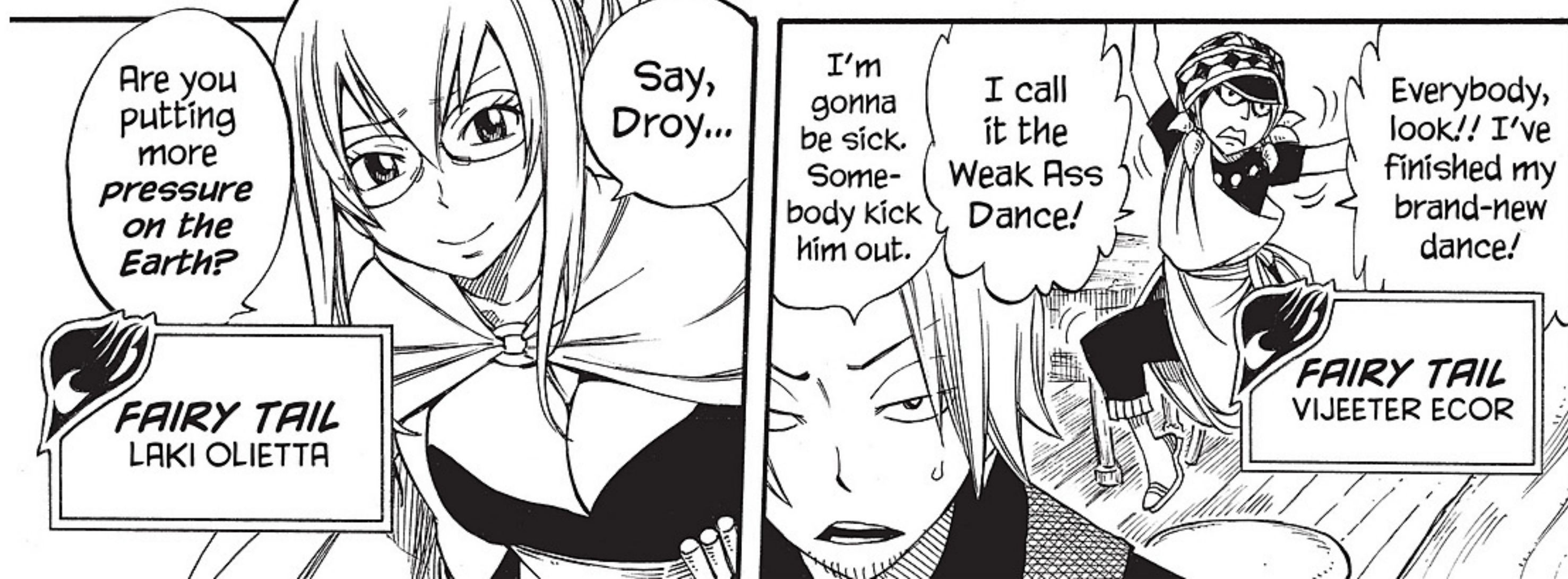
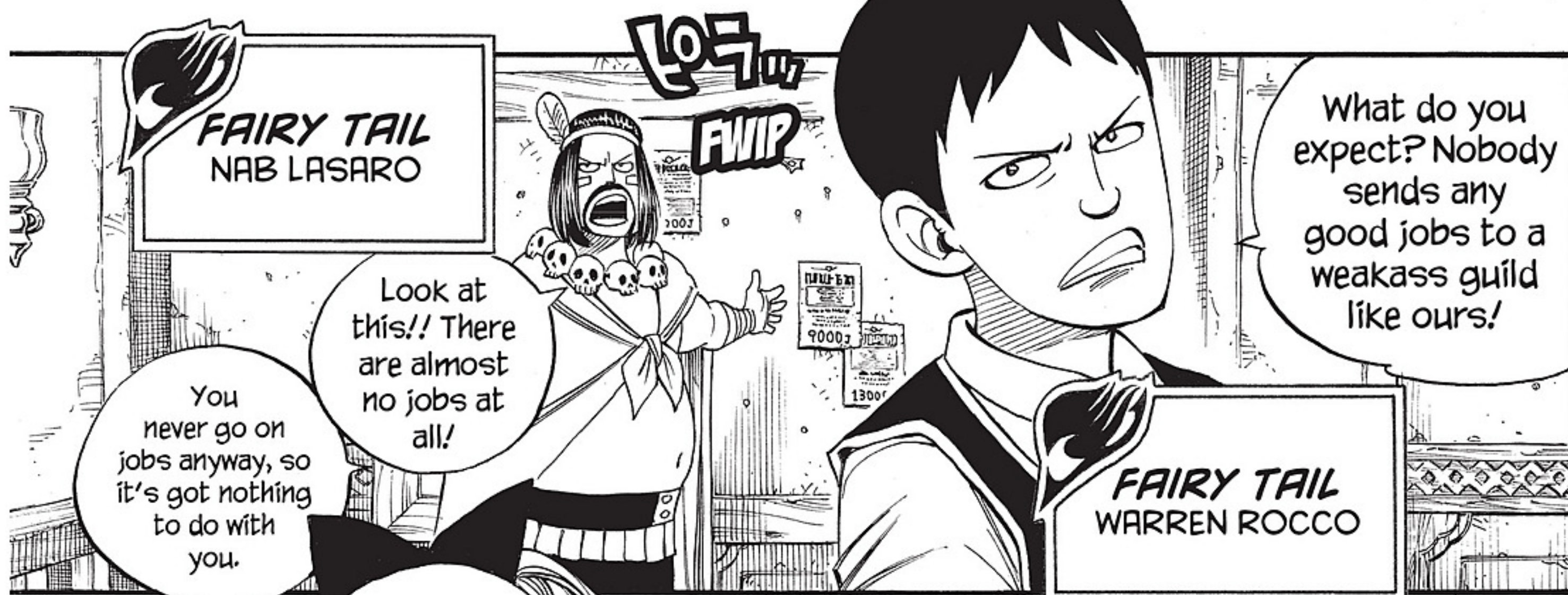


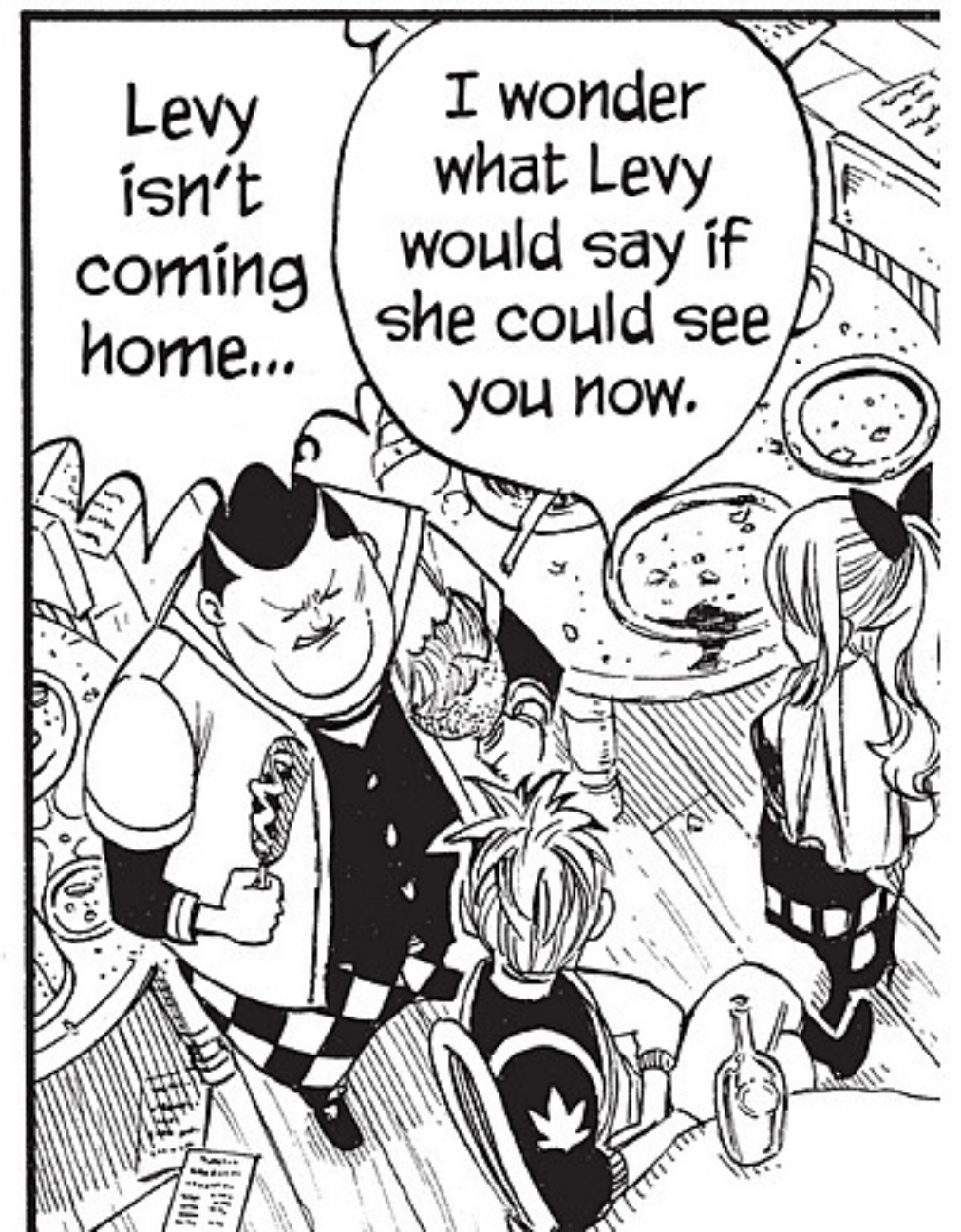
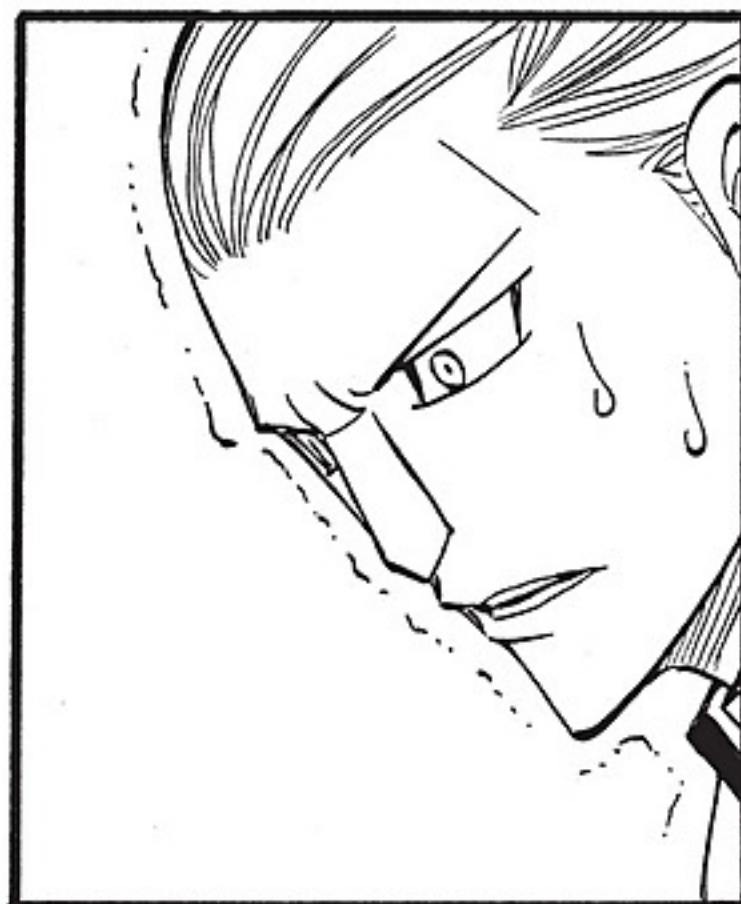
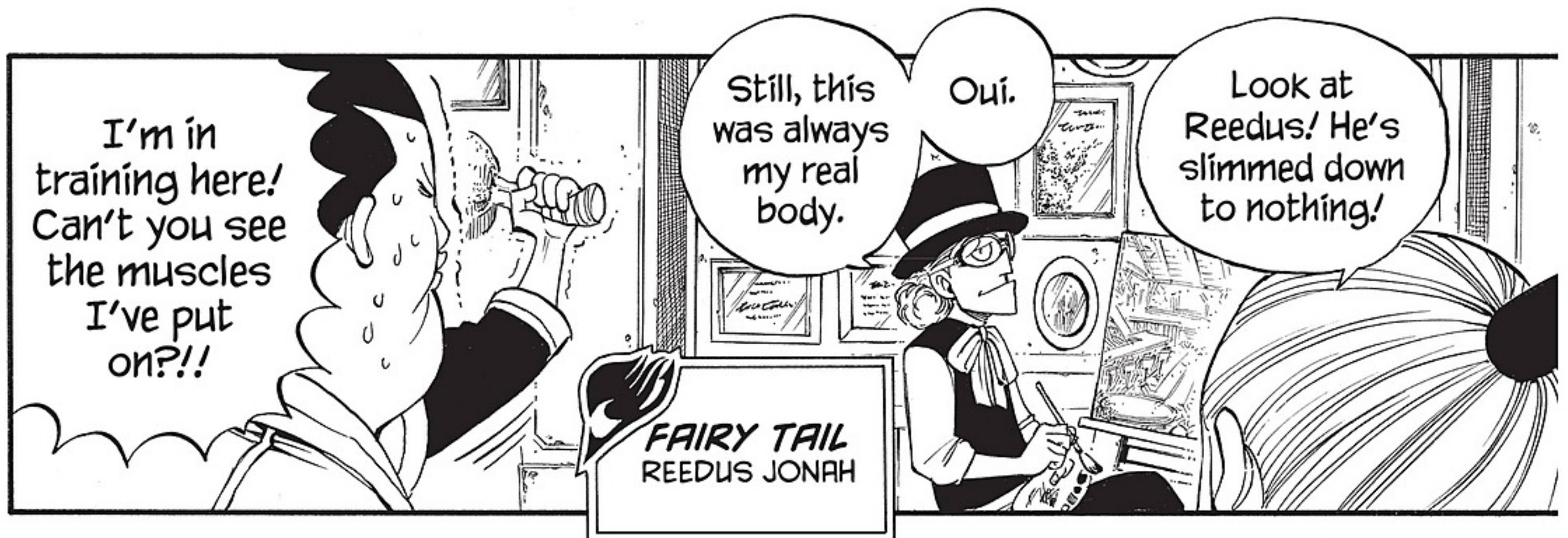
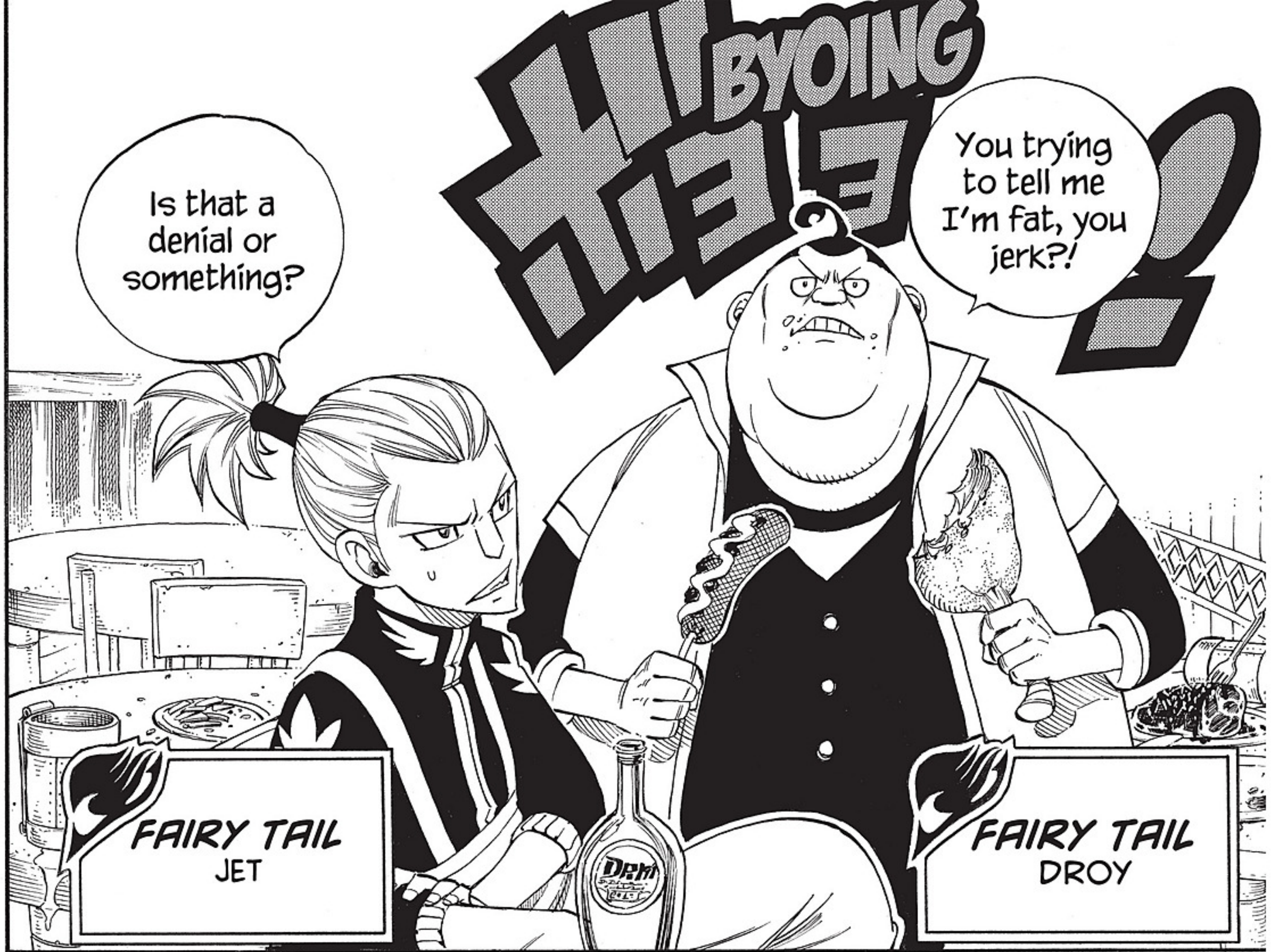
But
still...

I ain't
never seen a
master with
less dignity
than you!

You're
supposed
to call me,
"Master,"
right?!

FAIRY TAIL
MAX ALOZE







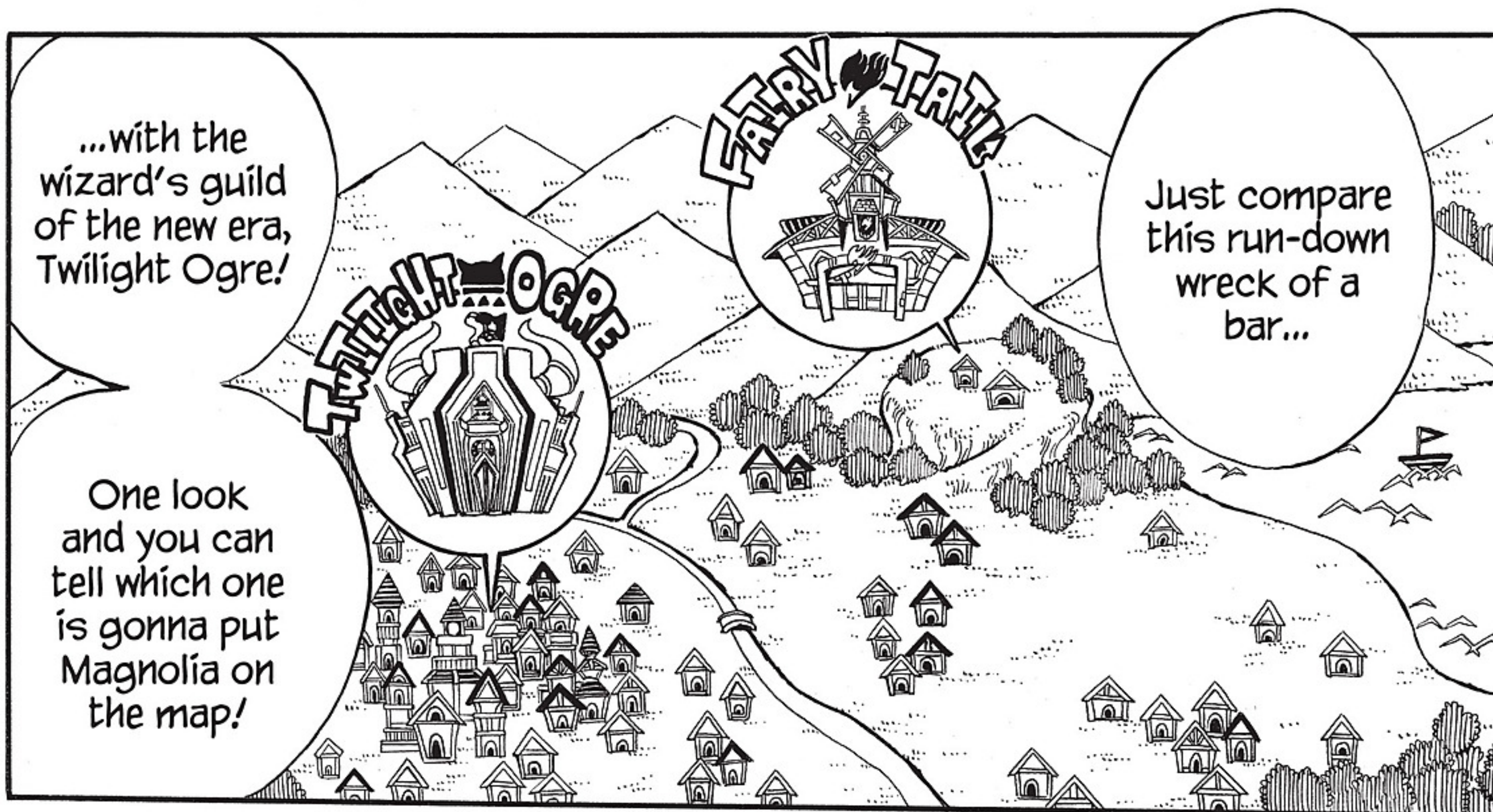


But *your* time is over!

Maybe you *were* the strongest in Fiore way back when, and maybe not...



Kh...



...with the wizard's guild of the new era, Twilight Ogre!

One look and you can tell which one is gonna put Magnolia on the map!

Just compare this run-down wreck of a bar...



?!



Our money for this month! Fork it over.



What're you here for, Thibault?



"Spirit" won't buy food.



A huge building doesn't mean anything! Don't talk so big!

Right!! We got *spirit* here!



No good jobs have shown up here at all this month!!!

So listen, jerks! Wait until the end of next month, and we'll pay you for both!

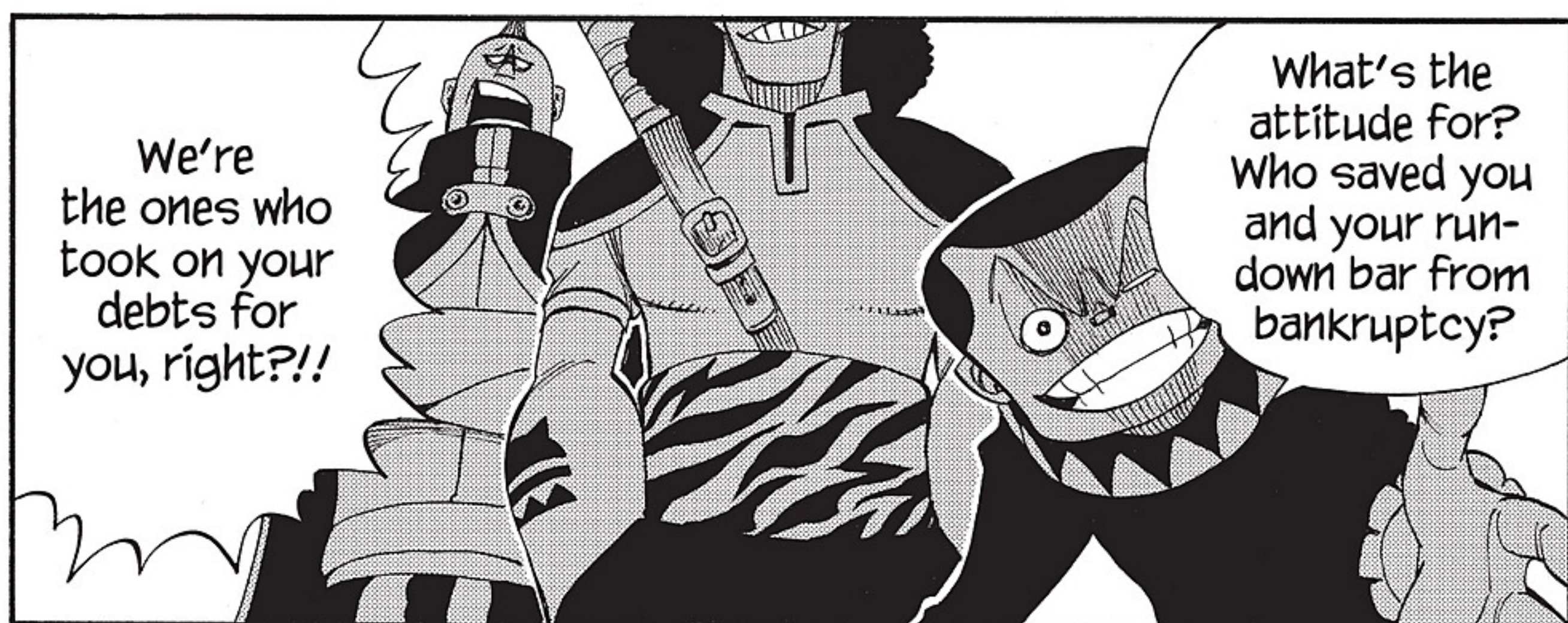


You guys are behind in your loan payments!



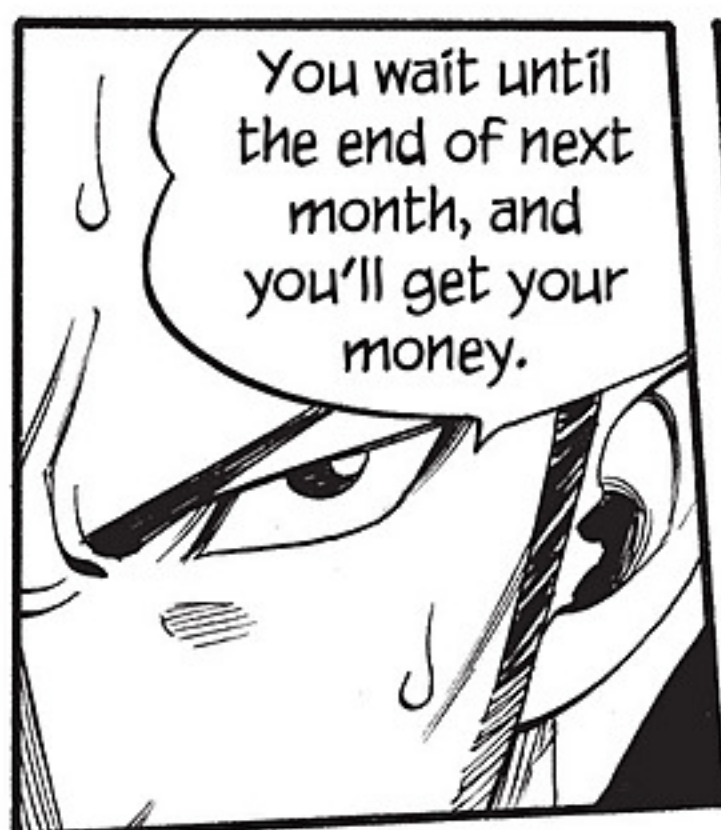
You're supposed to call me Master!

You didn't pay it yet, Macao?!



We're the ones who took on your debts for you, right?!!

What's the attitude for? Who saved you and your run-down bar from bankruptcy?



You wait until the end of next month, and you'll get your money.



But...

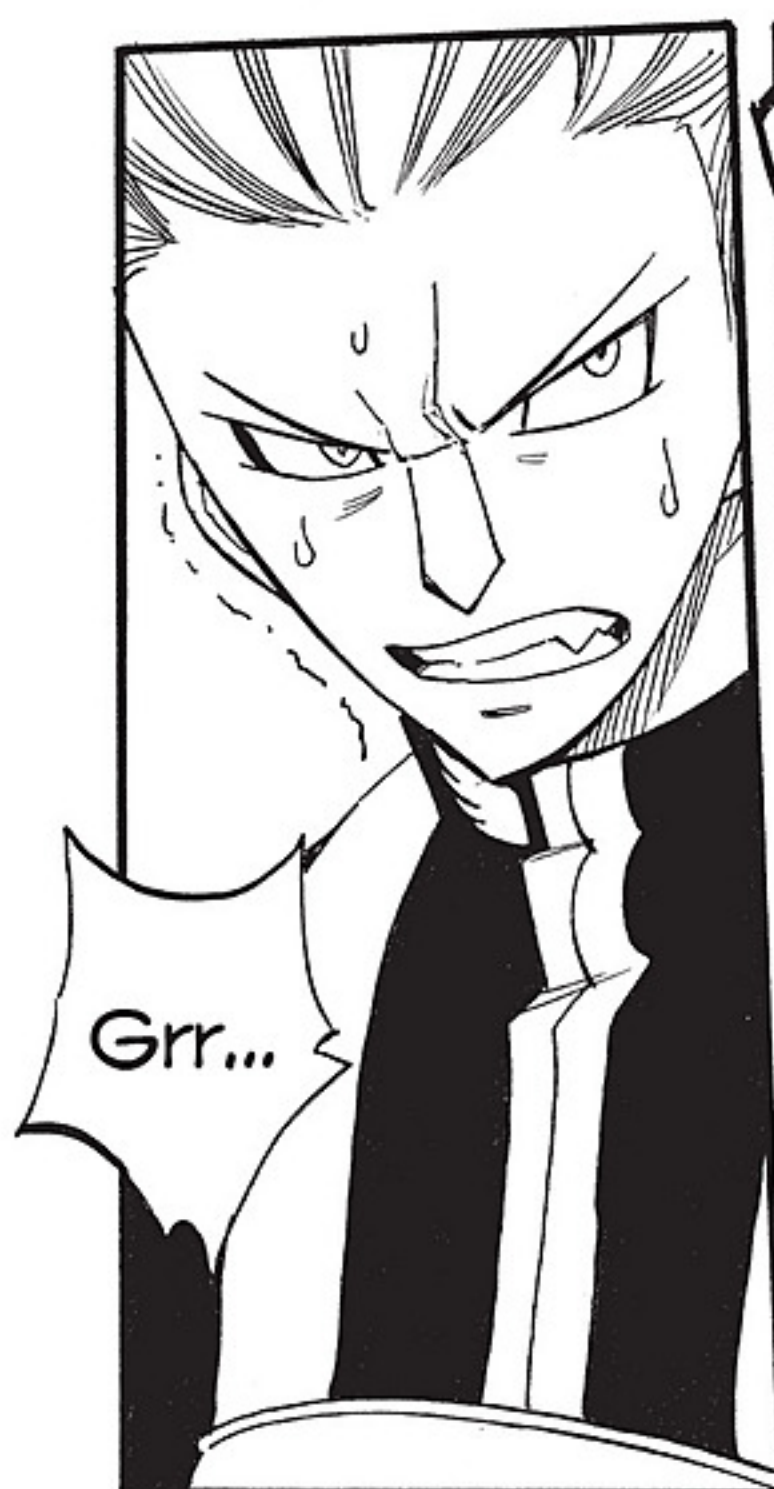
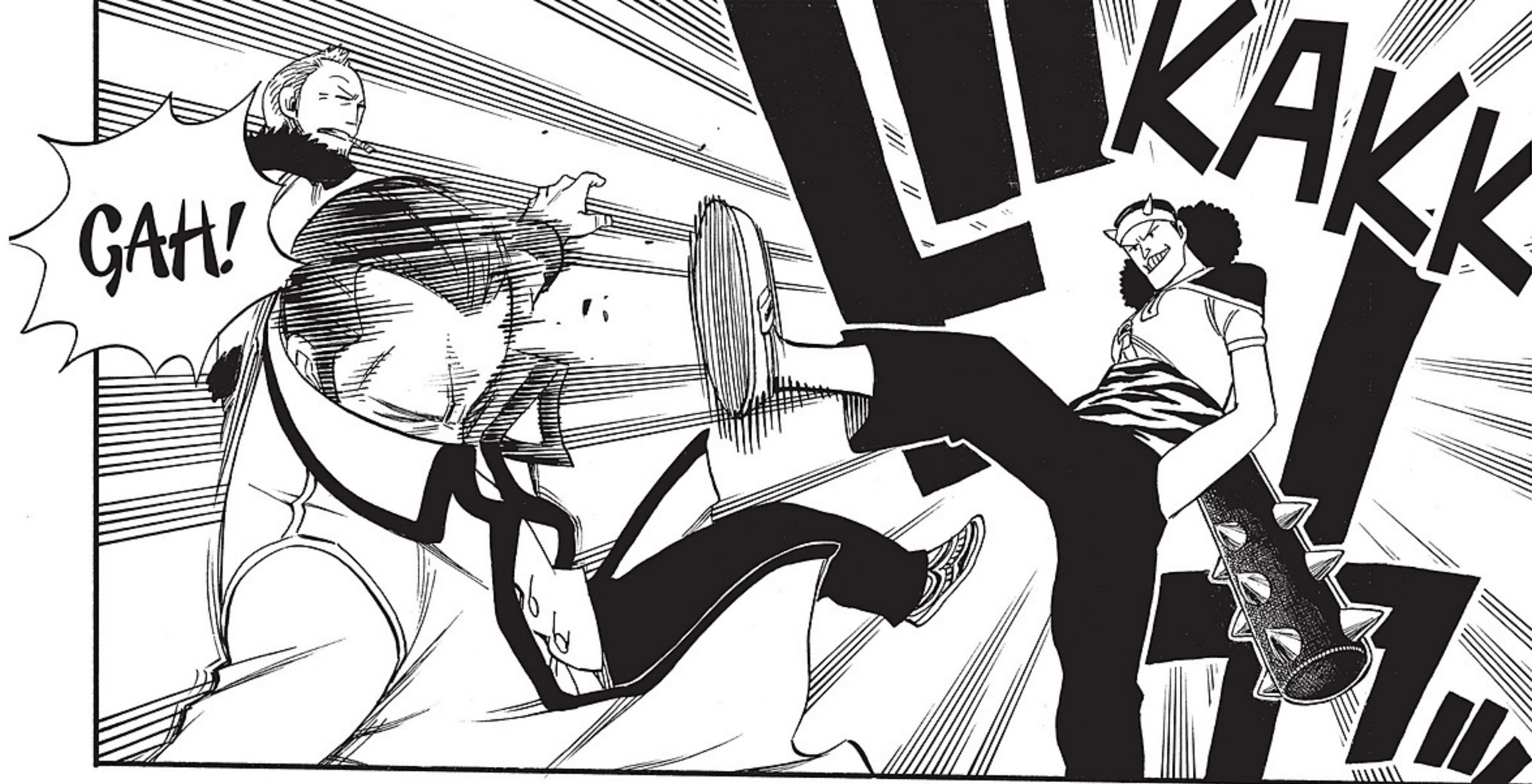
Pipe down, Jet!

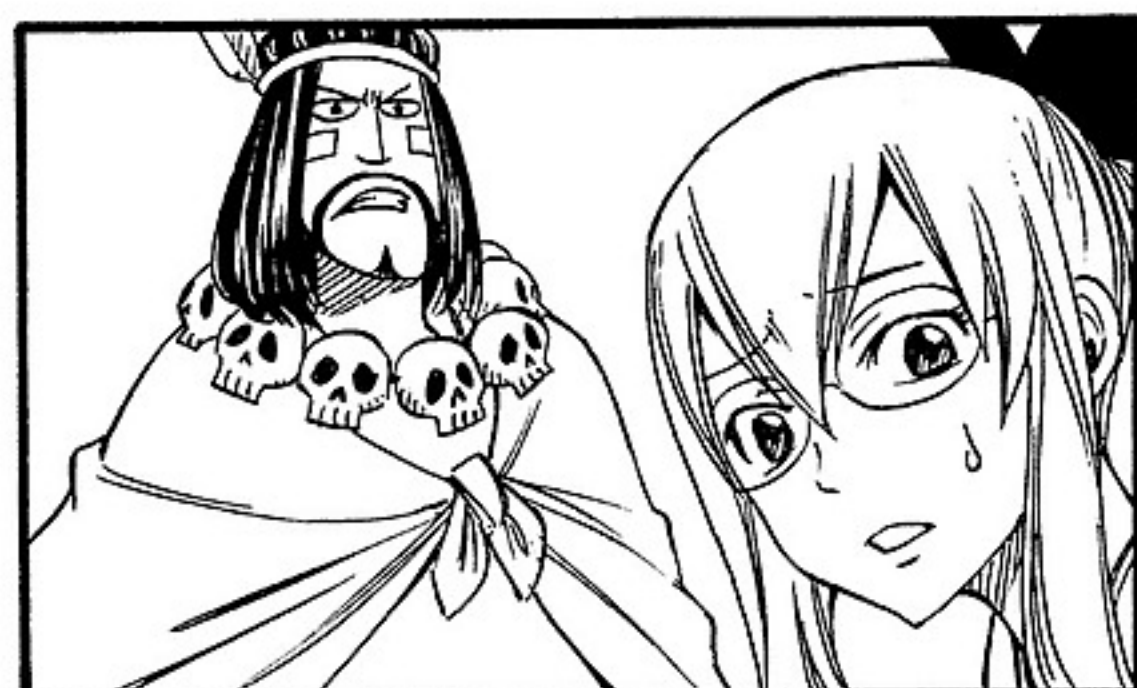
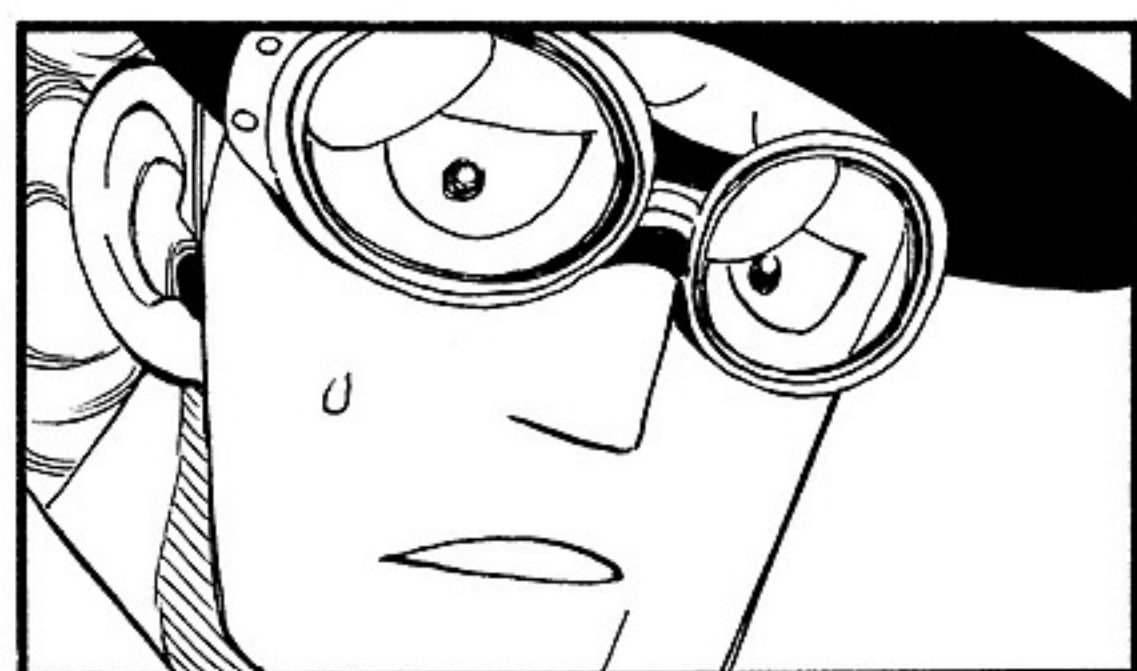
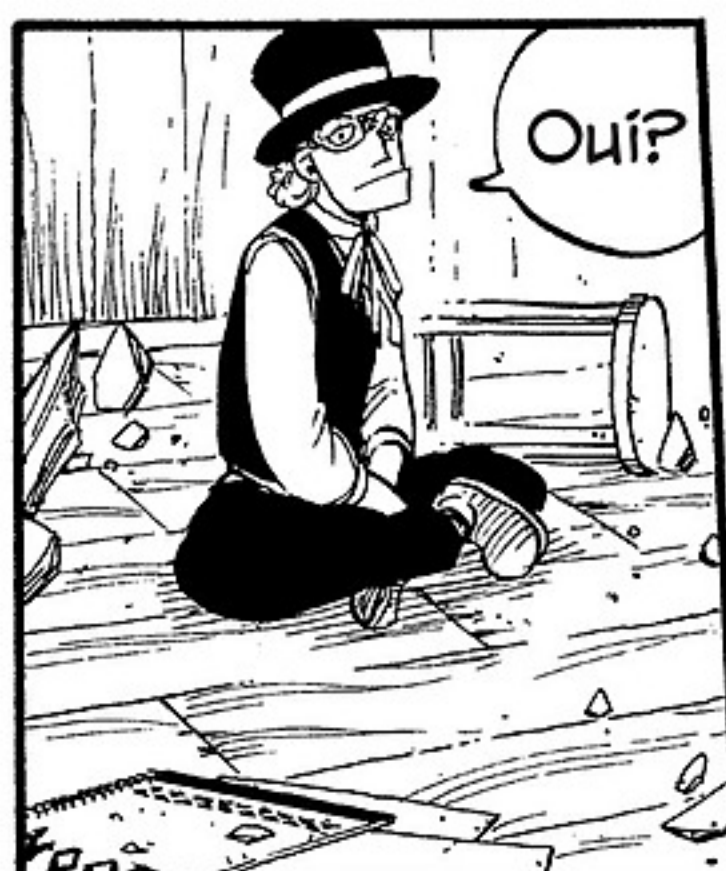


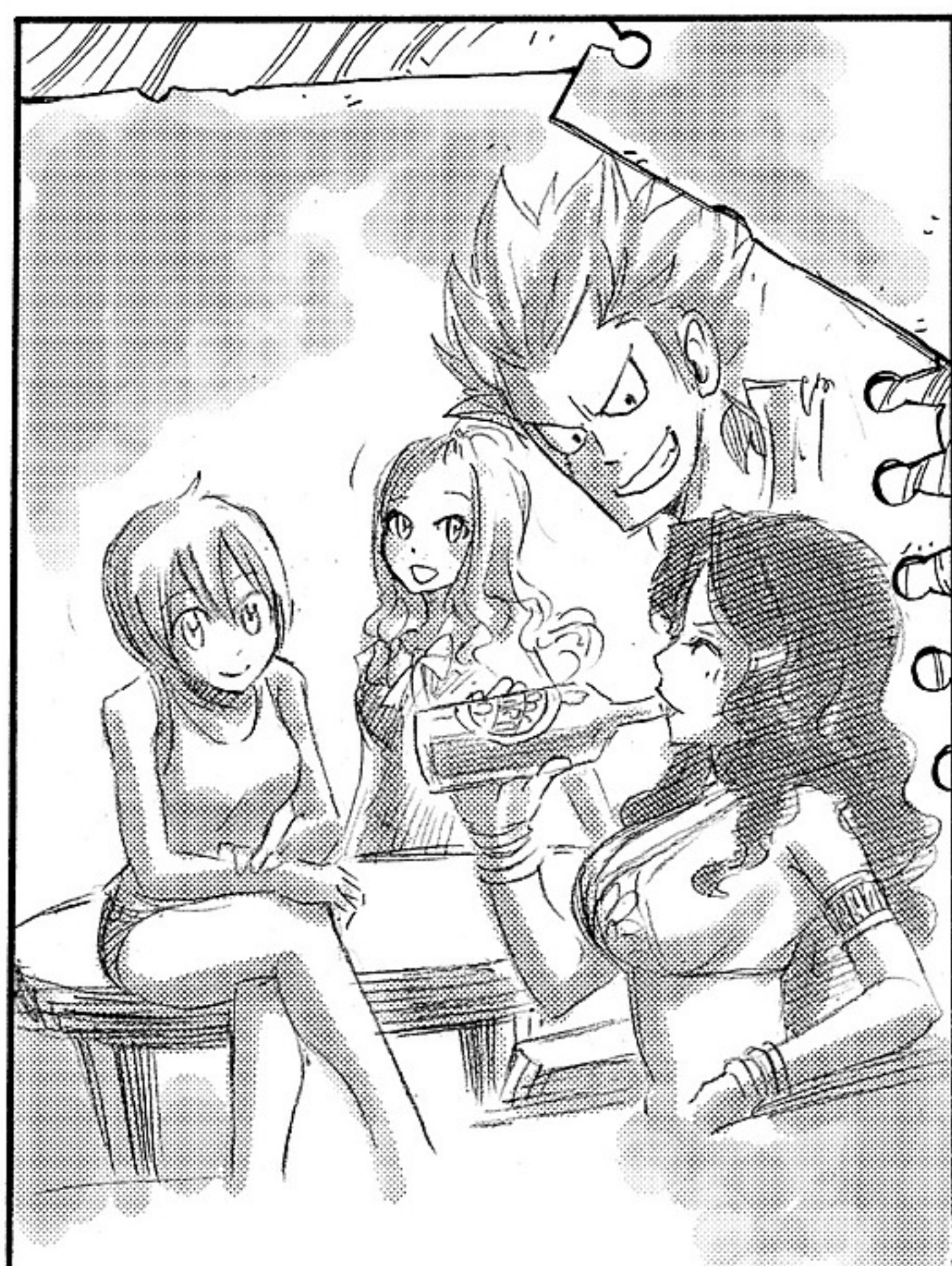
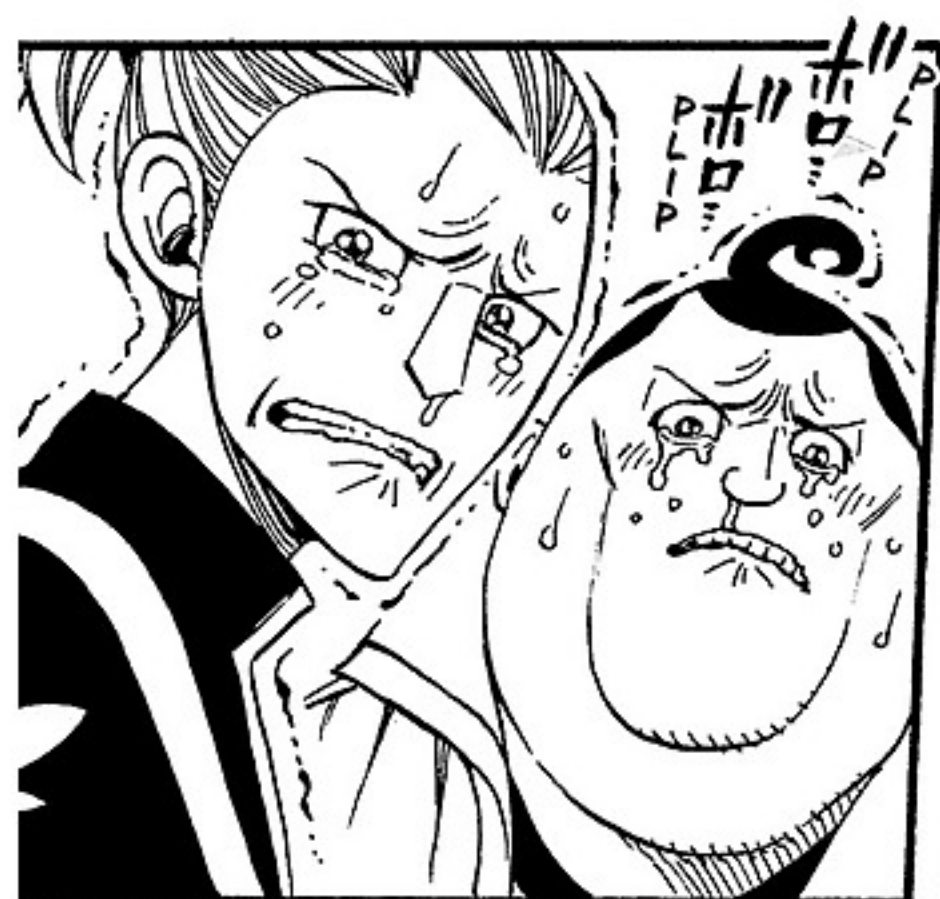
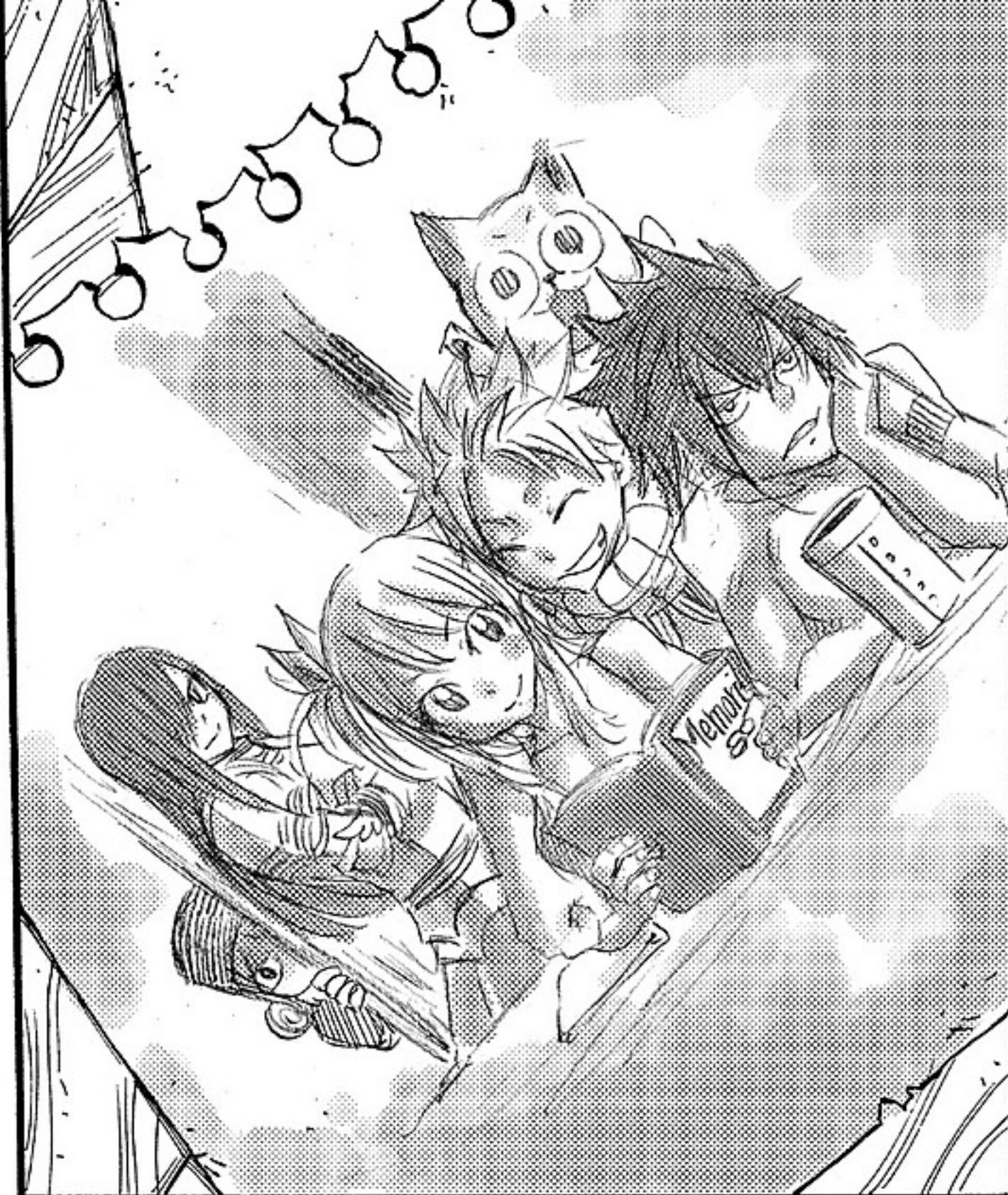
What was that, you creep?!!



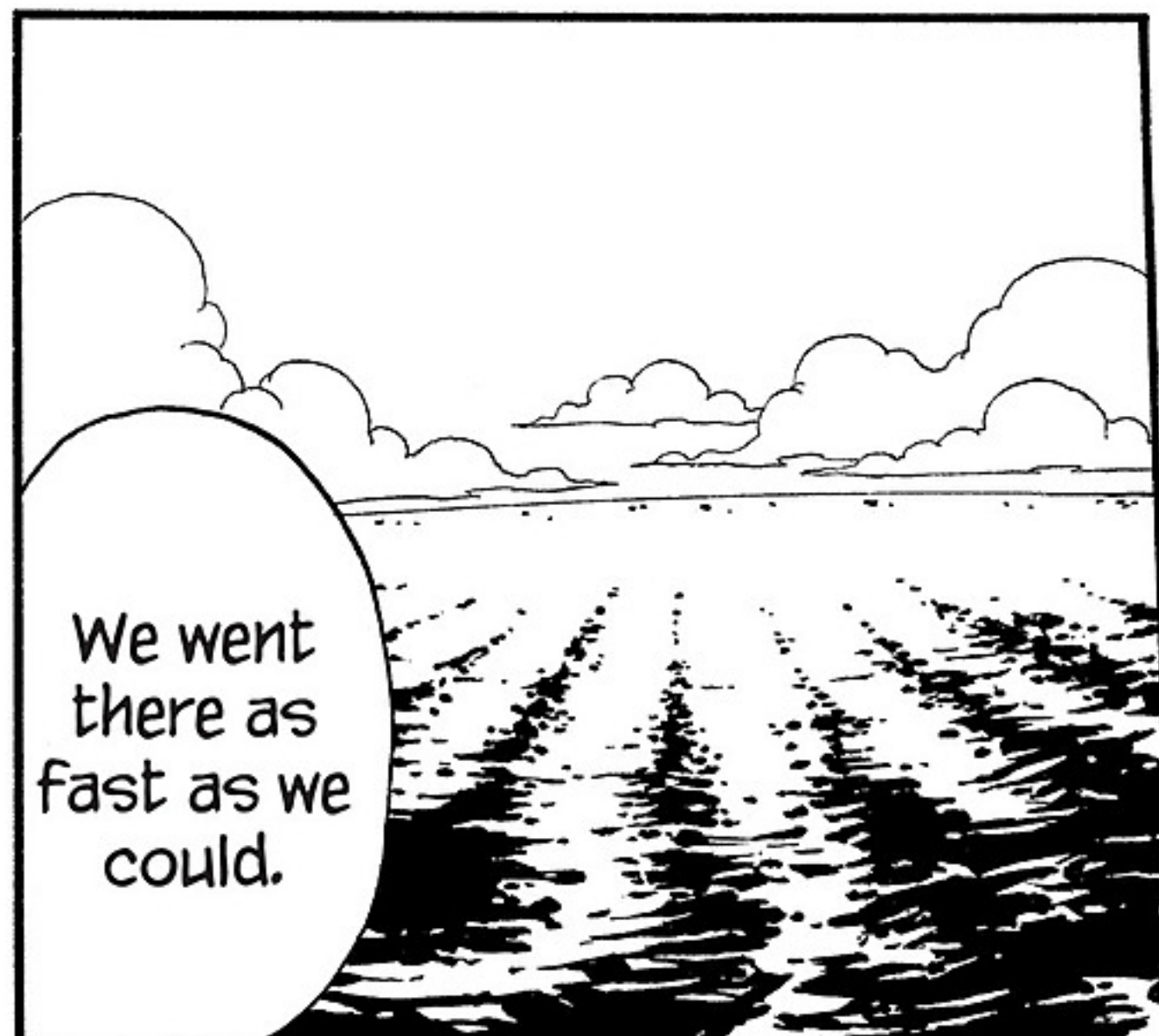
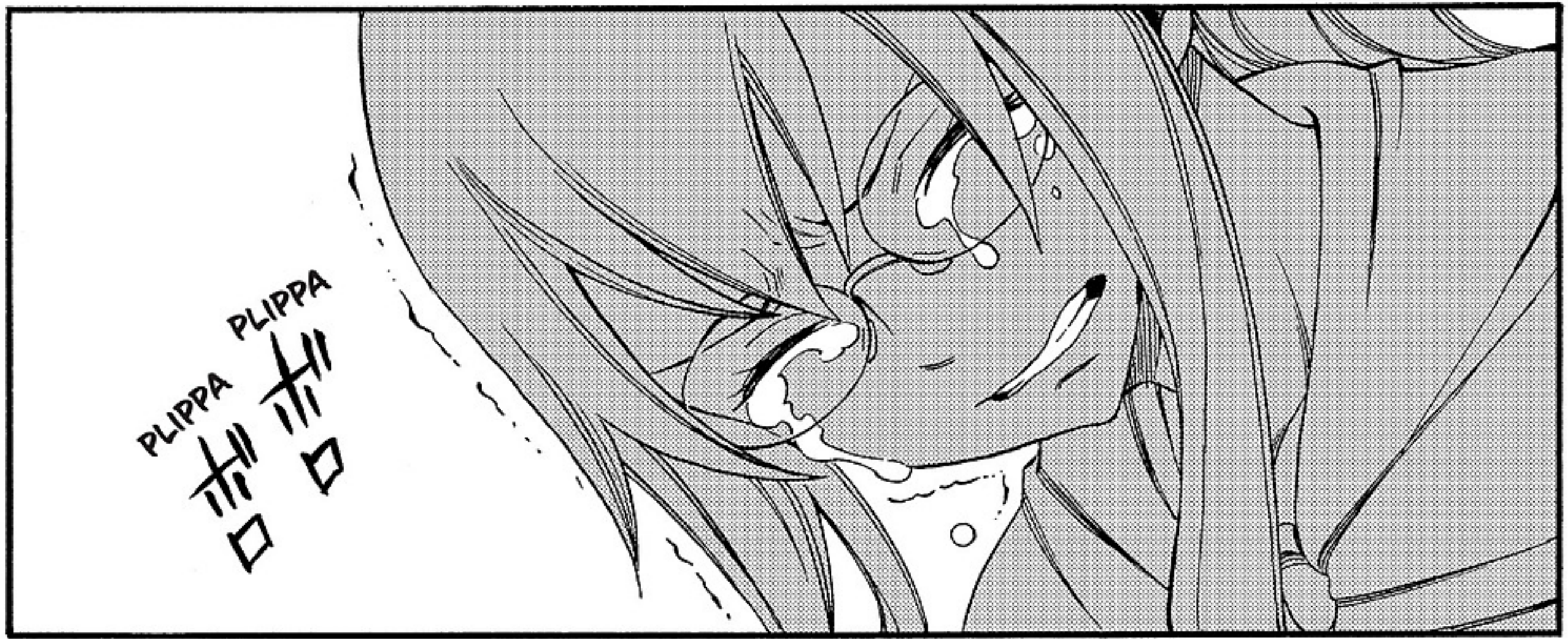
If we'd known how outrageous your interest rates were, we wouldn't have bothered...

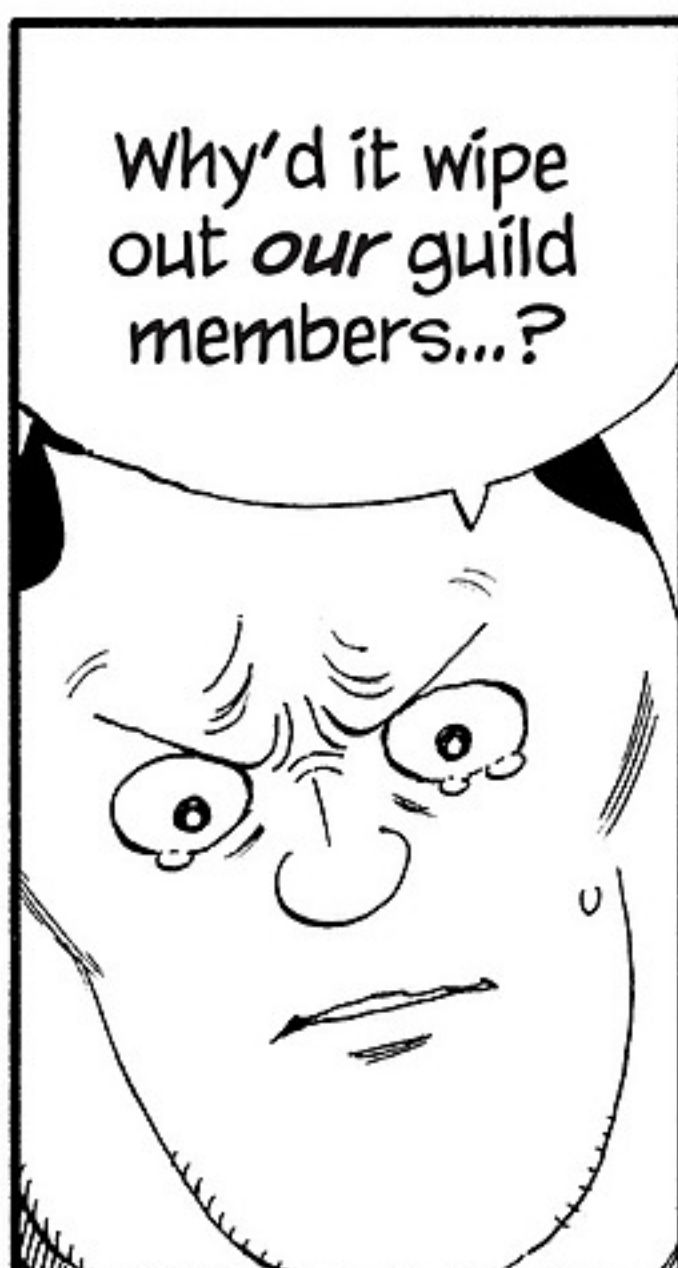
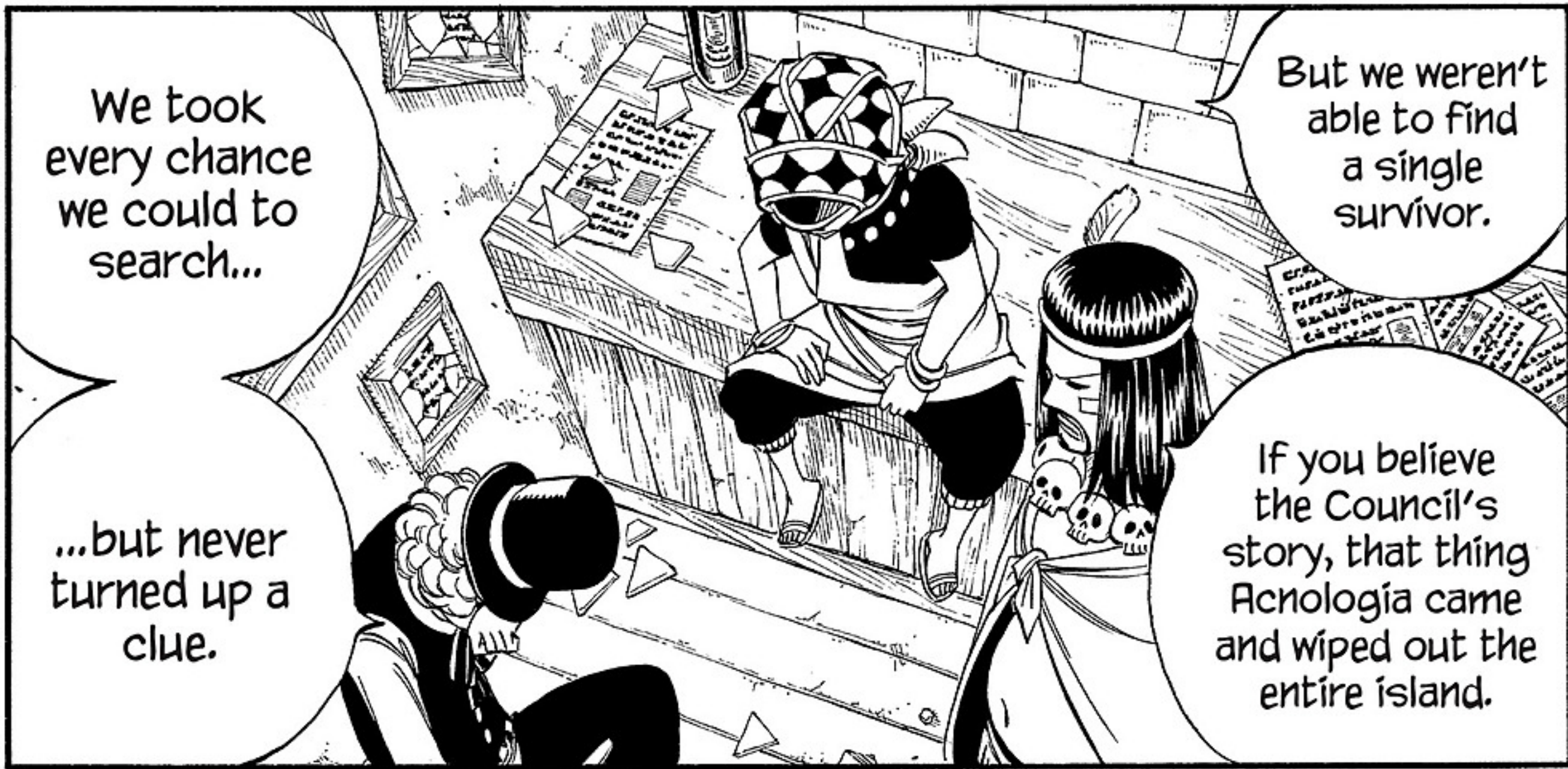


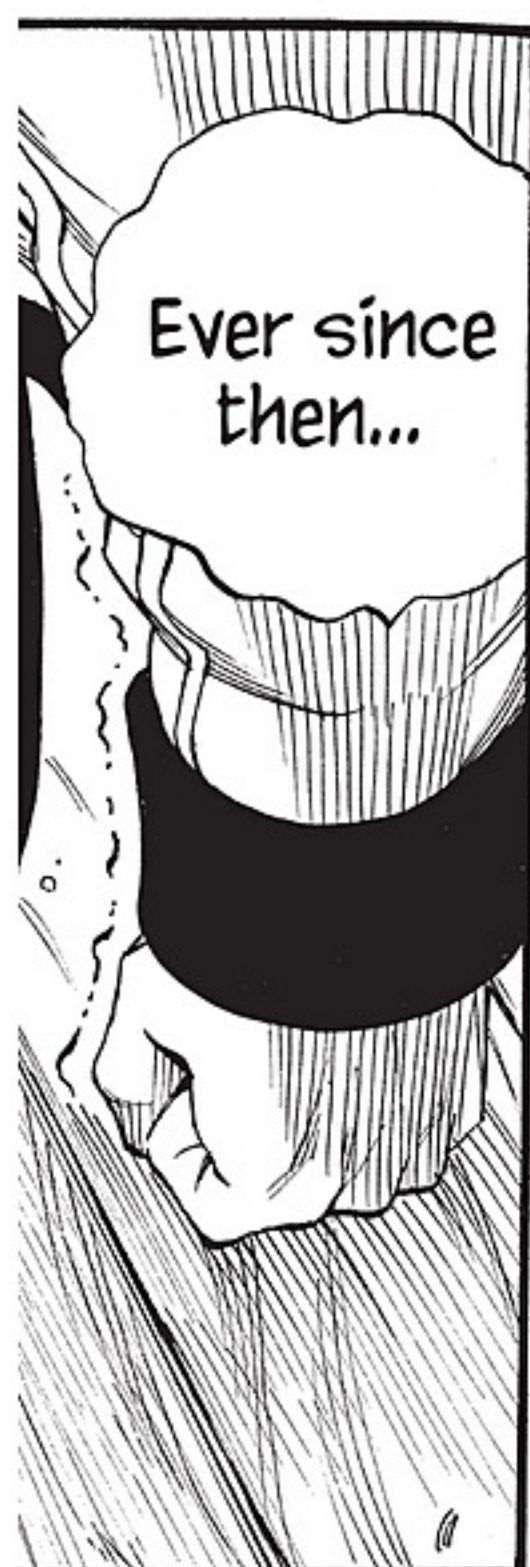


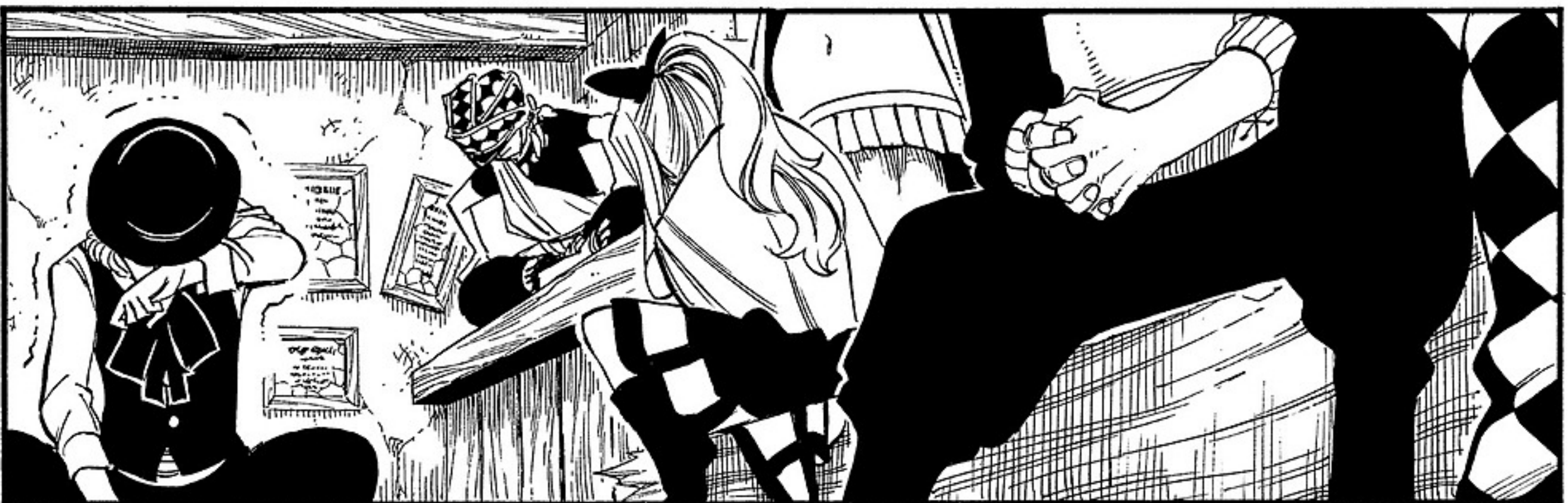
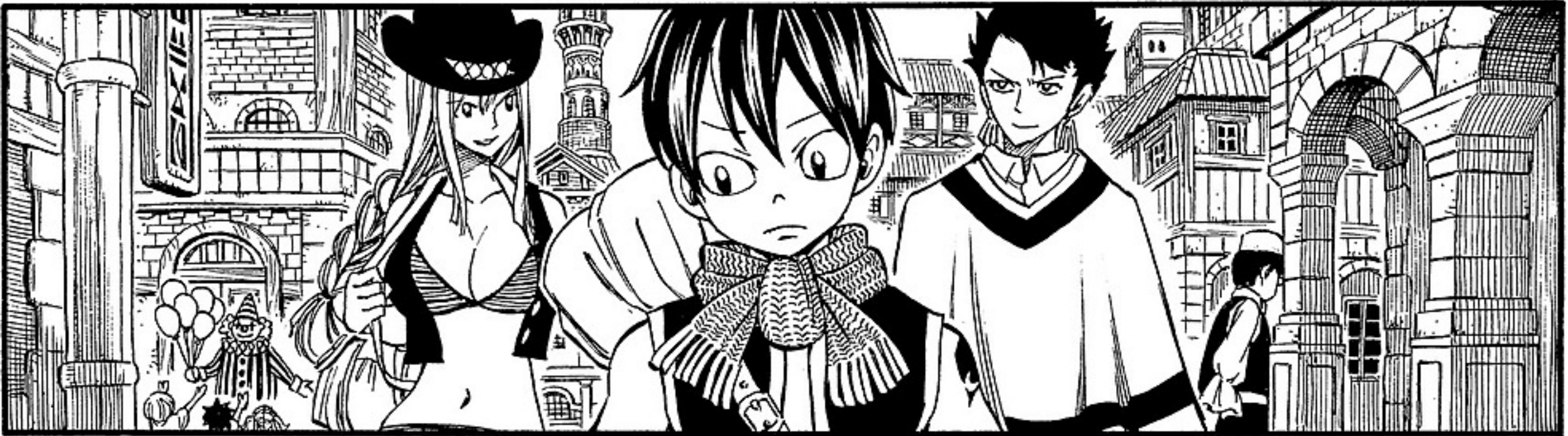


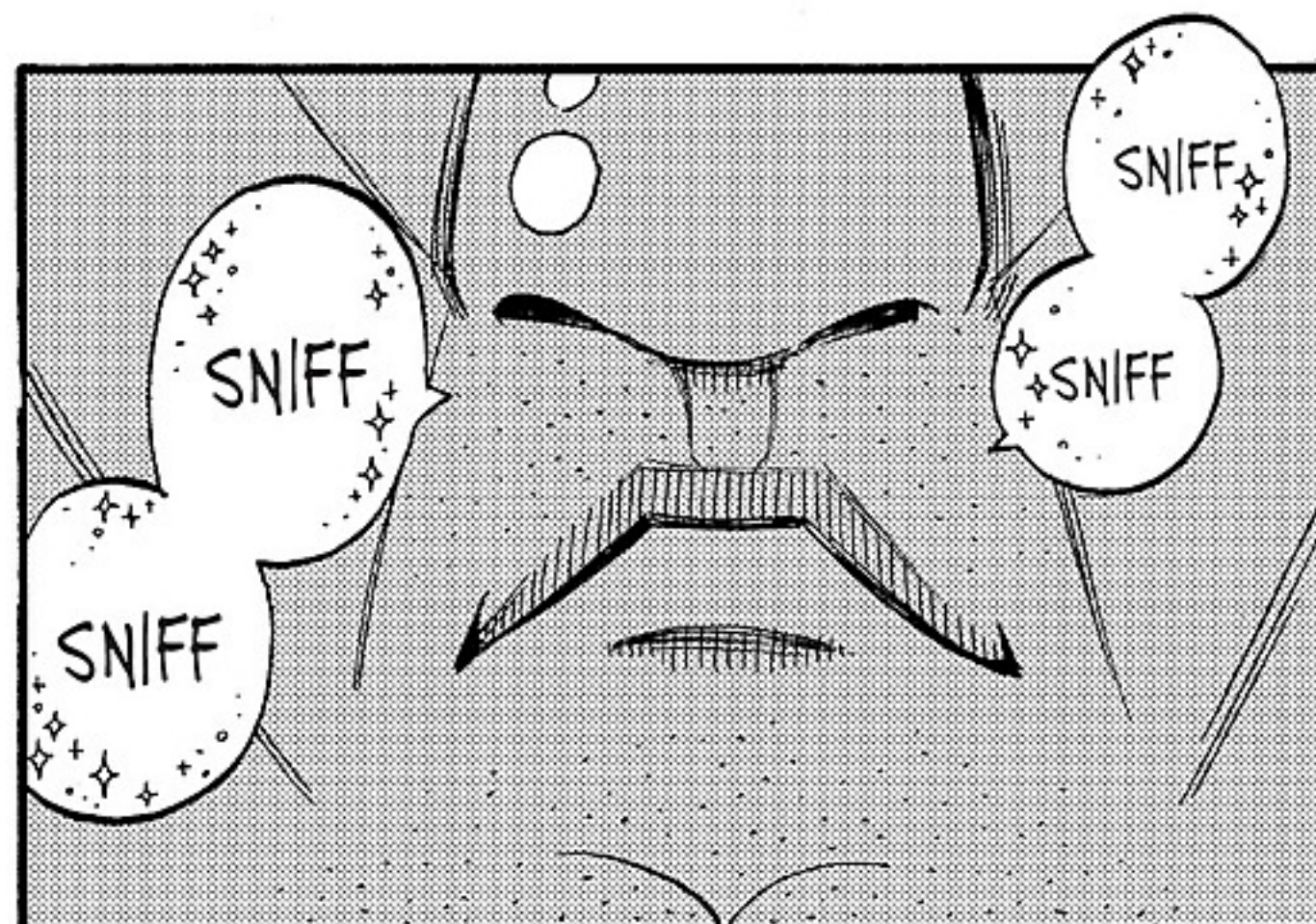
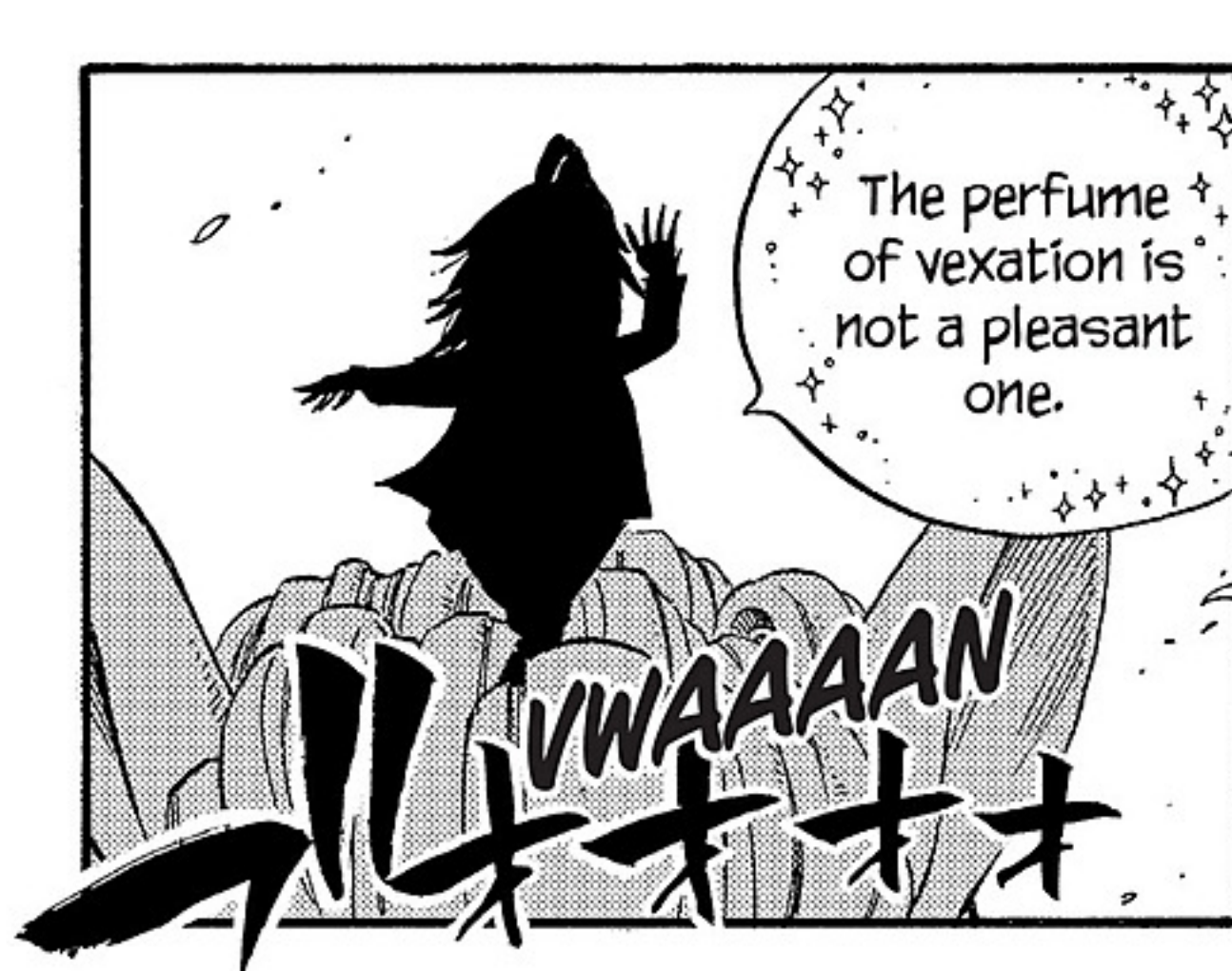


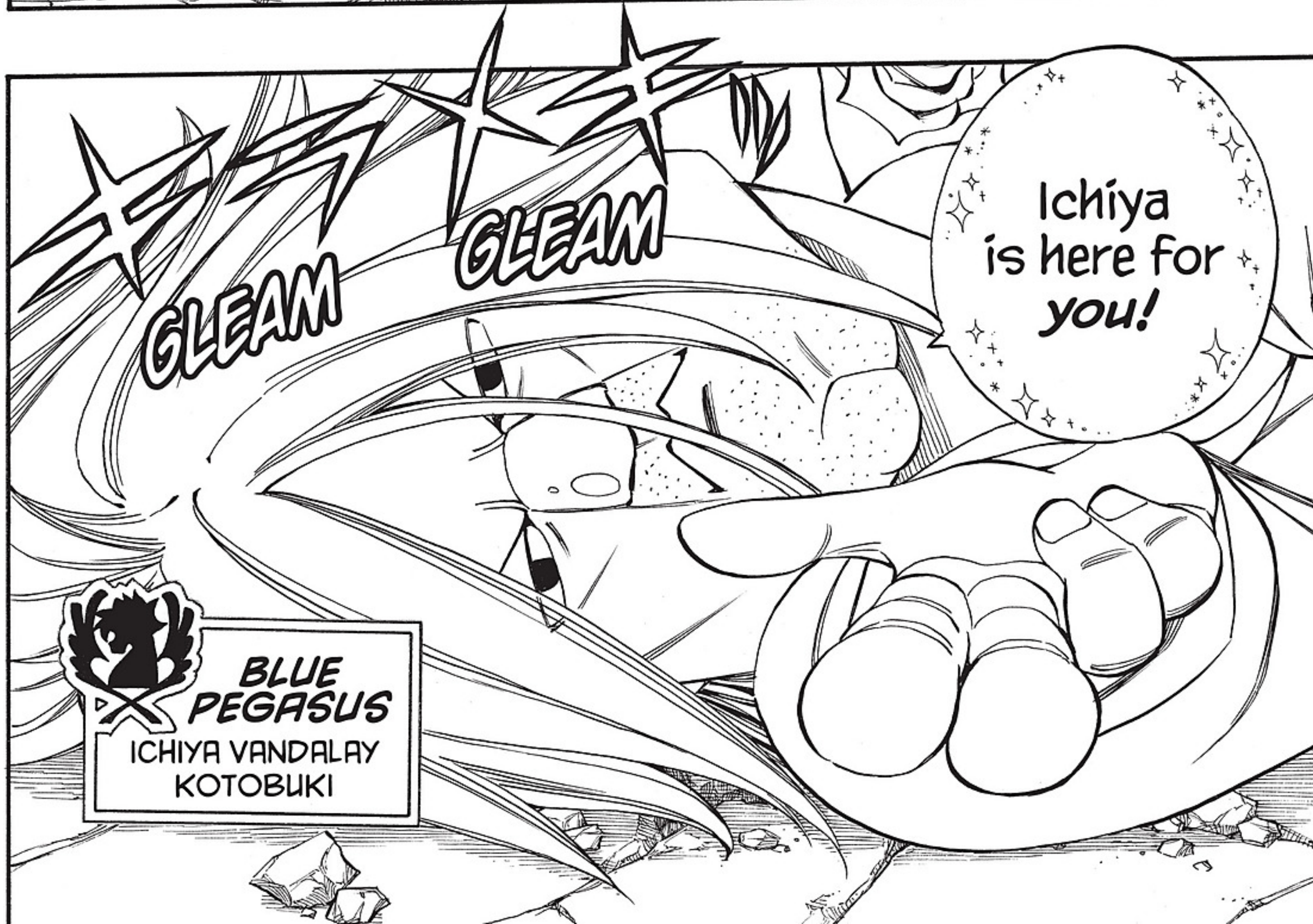
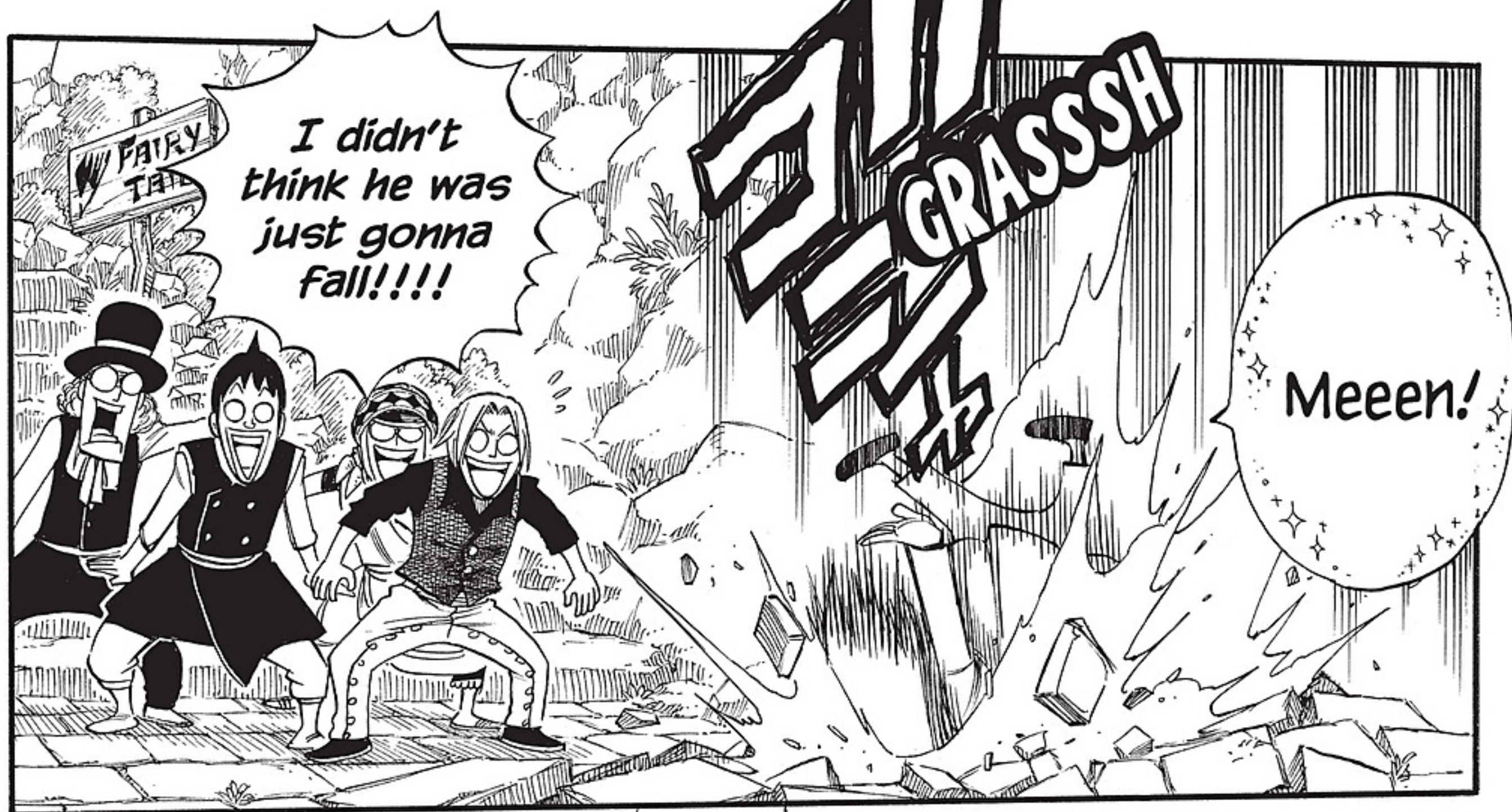
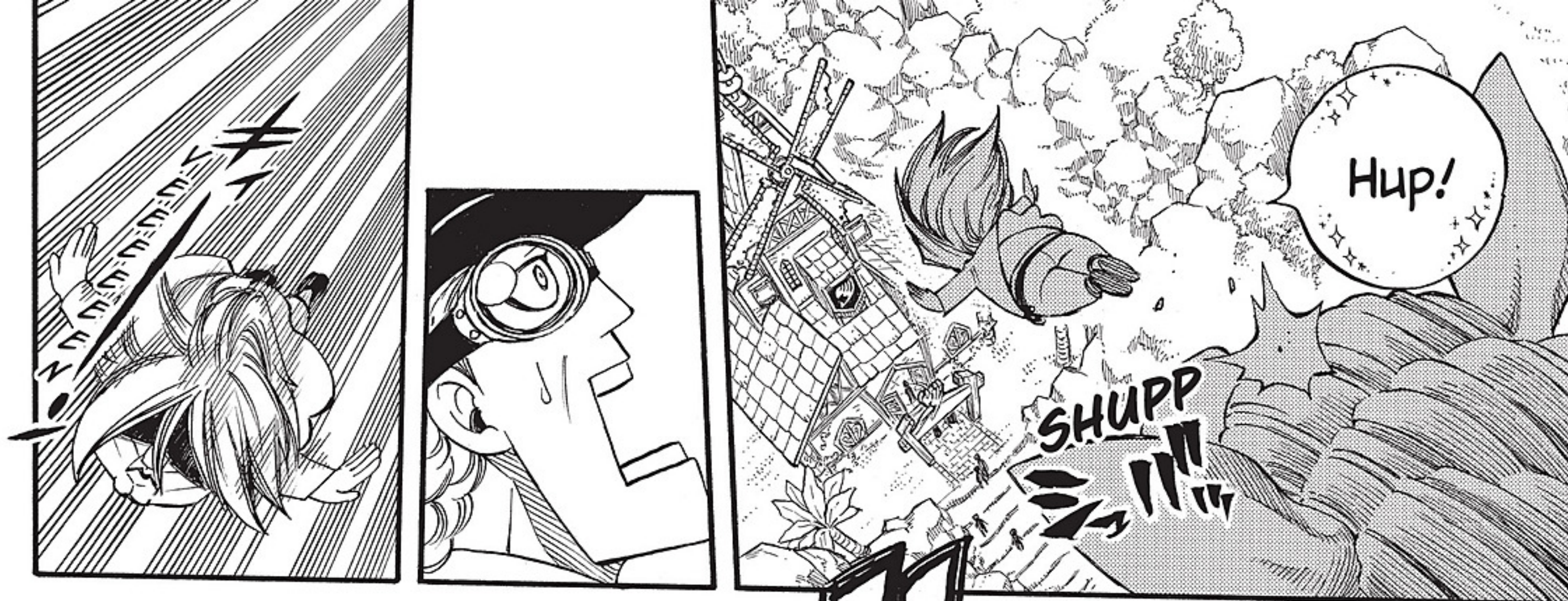


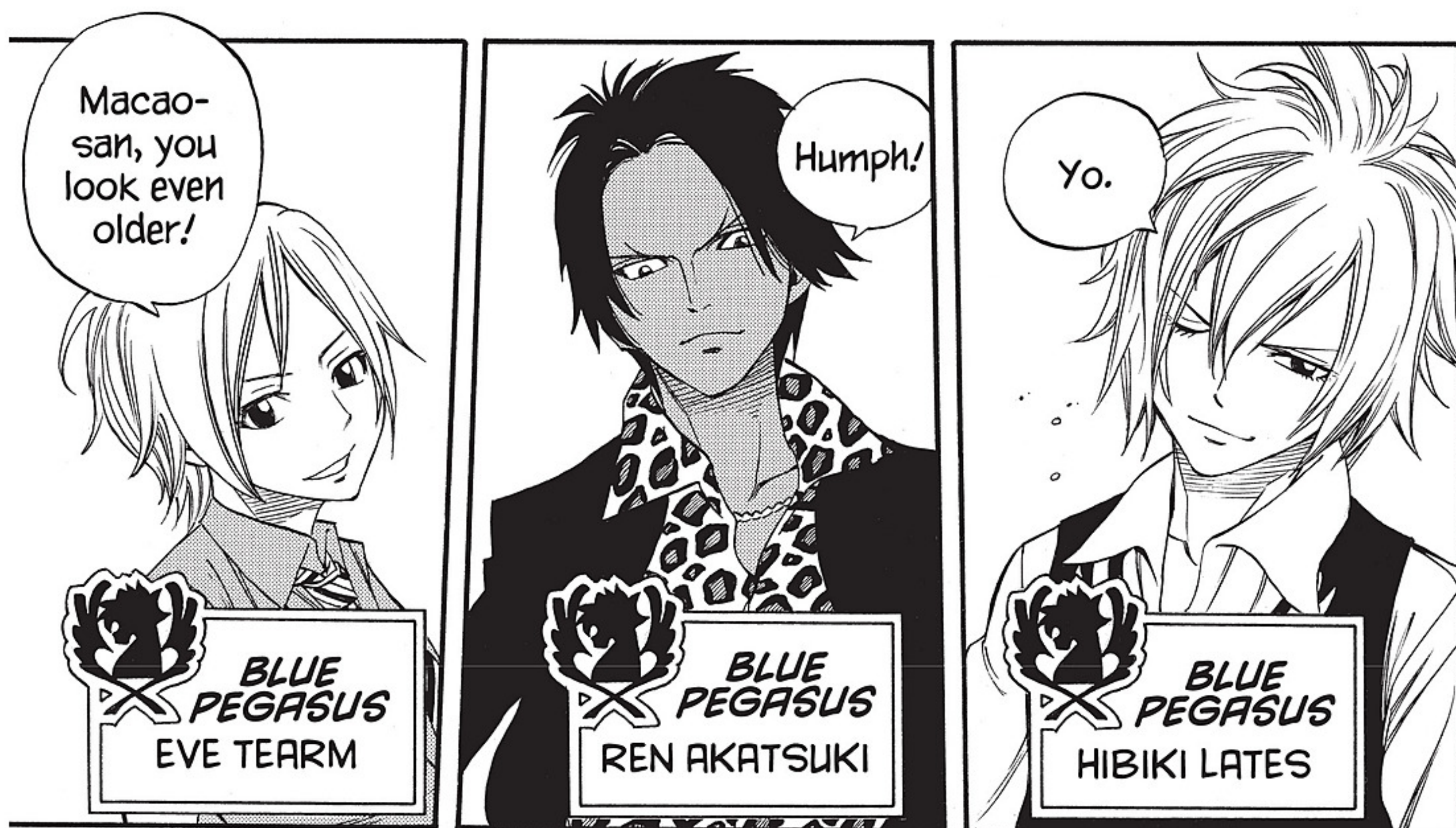
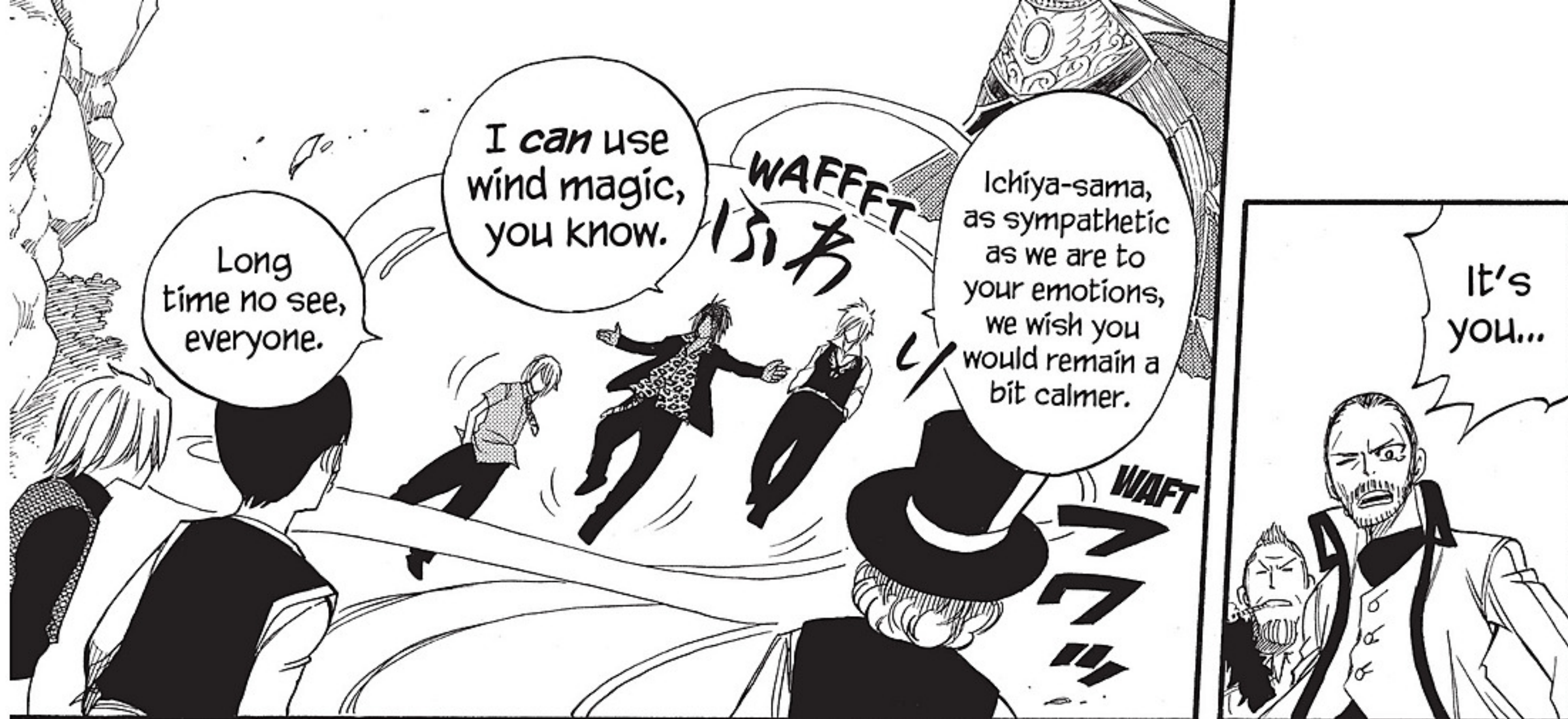












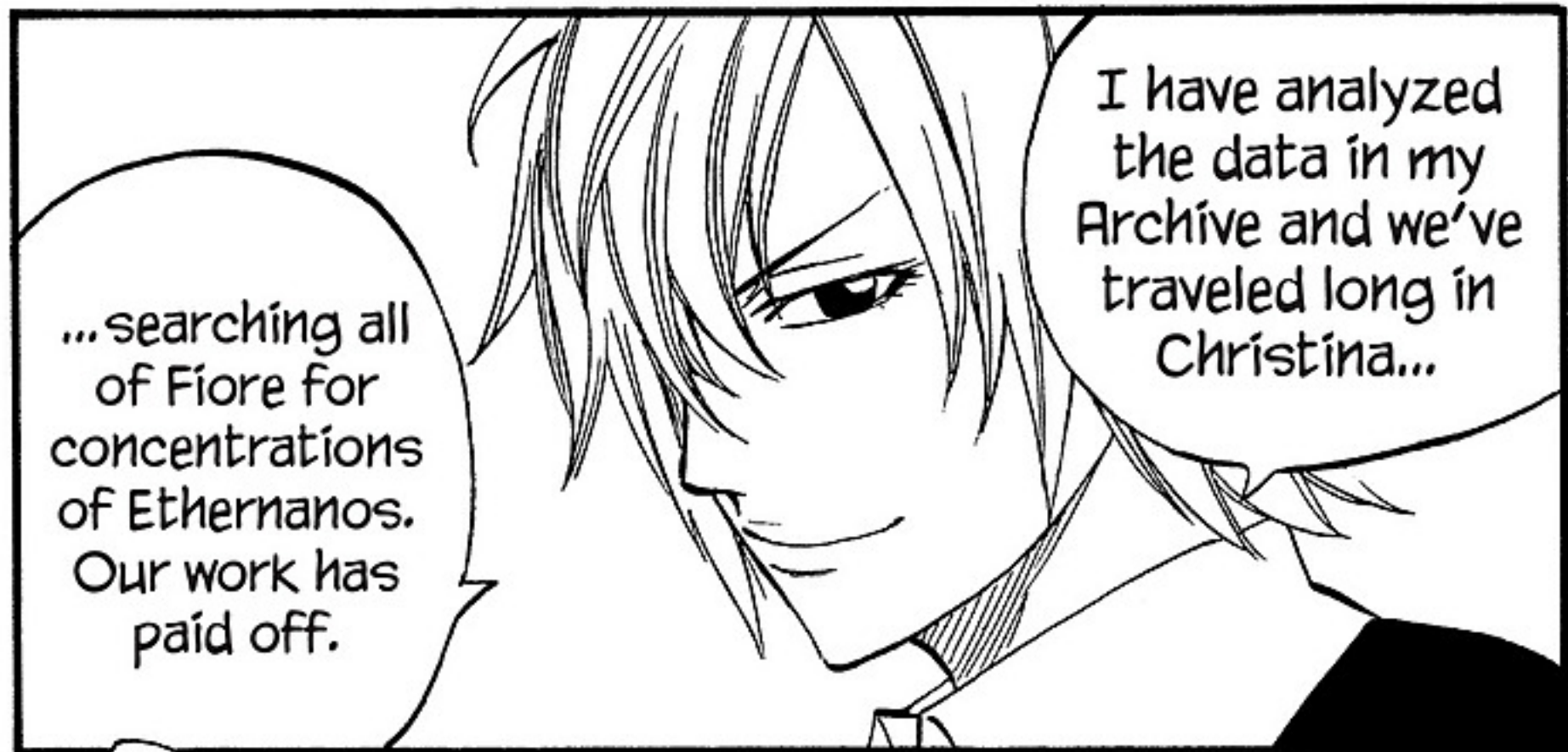


I never forget
the perfume of
those who have
competed against
us, and fought
alongside us!



Please
forgive
us!

You
three!!
Stop that
now!!



...searching all
of Fiore for
concentrations
of Ethernanos.
Our work has
paid off.

I have analyzed
the data in my
Archive and we've
traveled long in
Christina...



GLEE

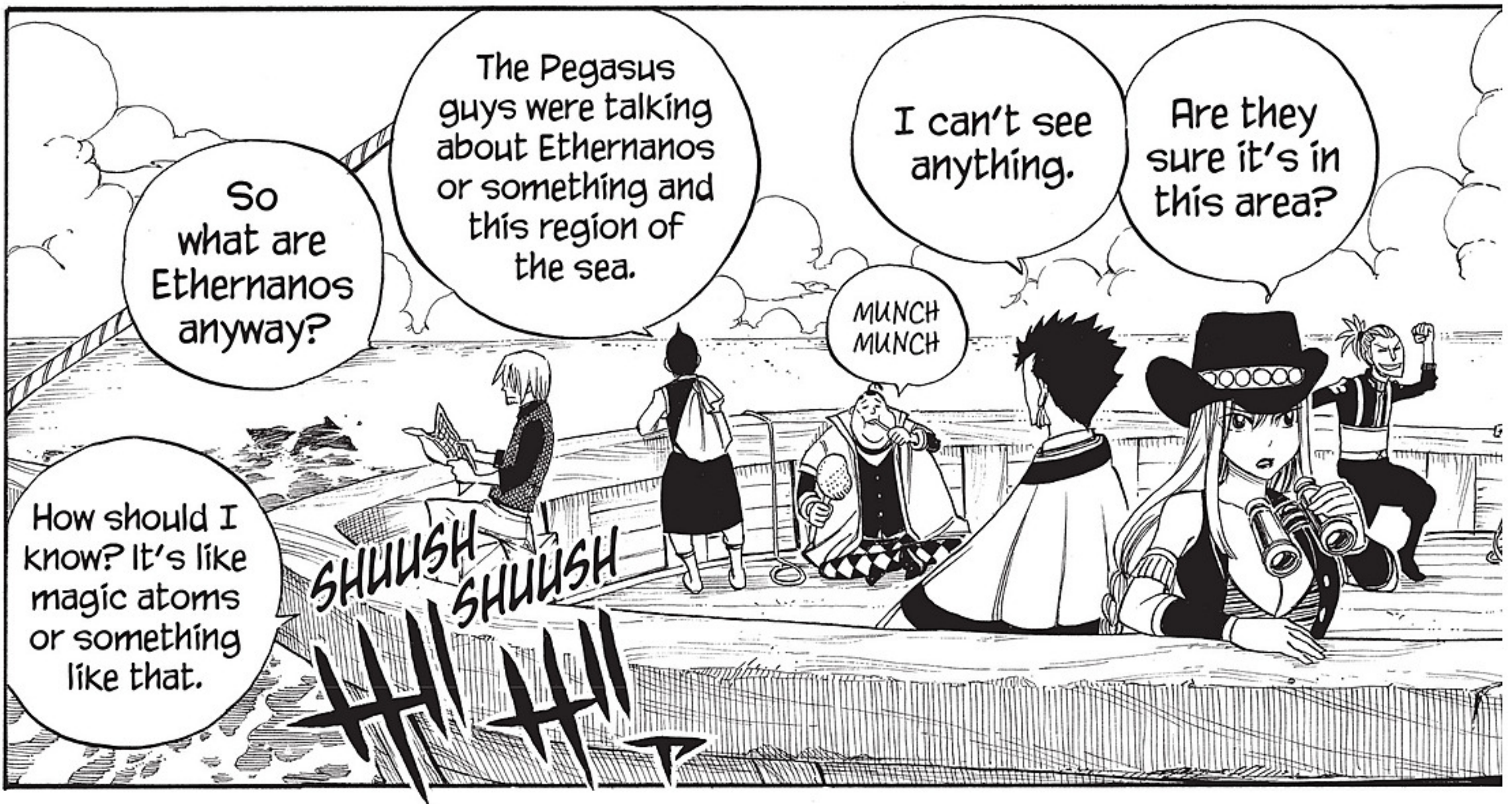
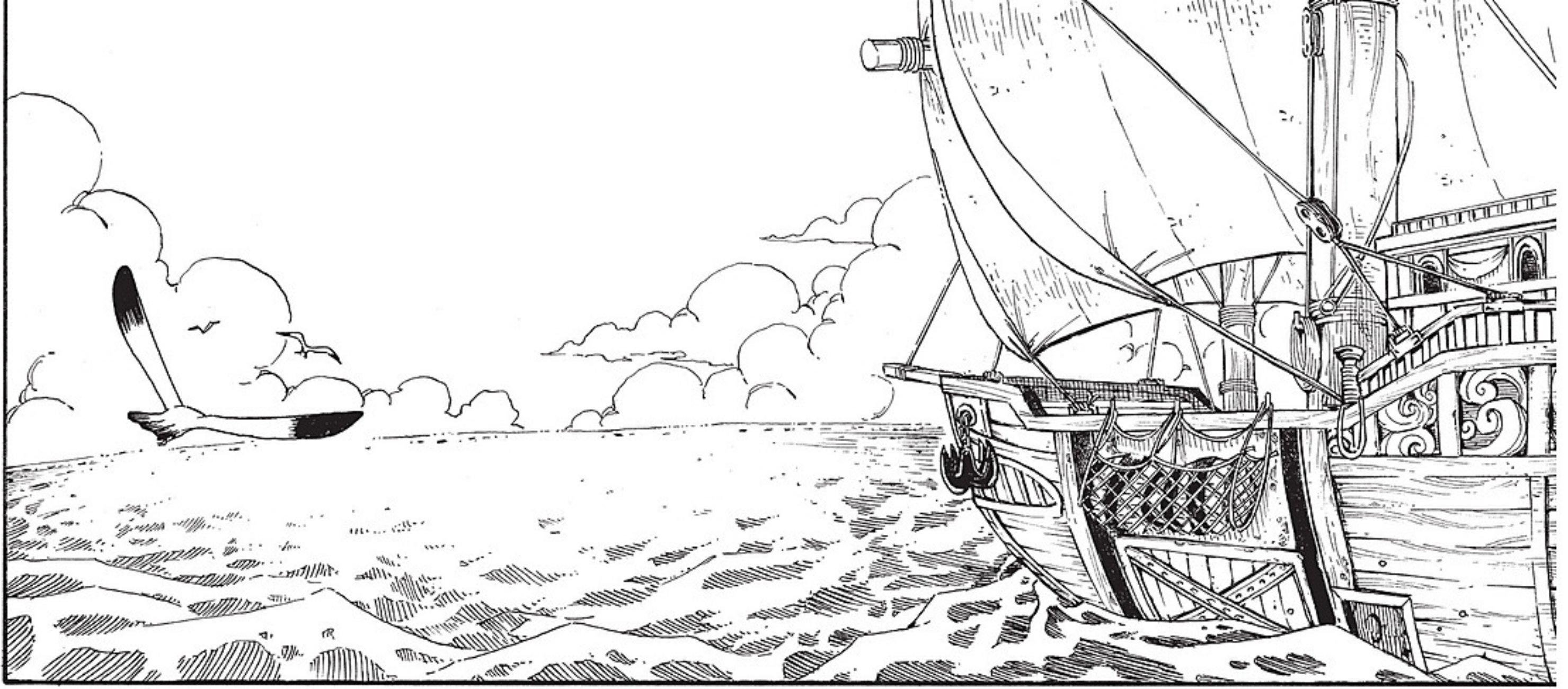
Sirius
Island still
exists!!!

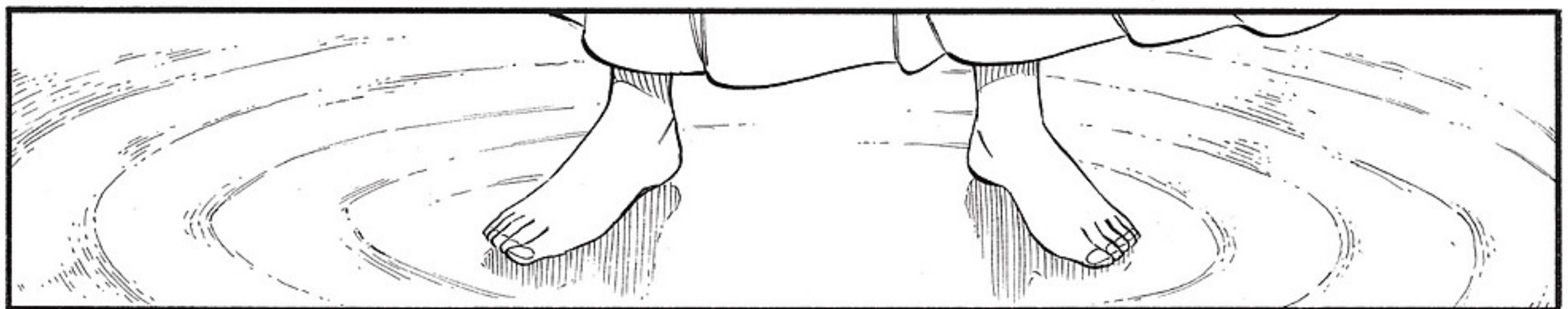
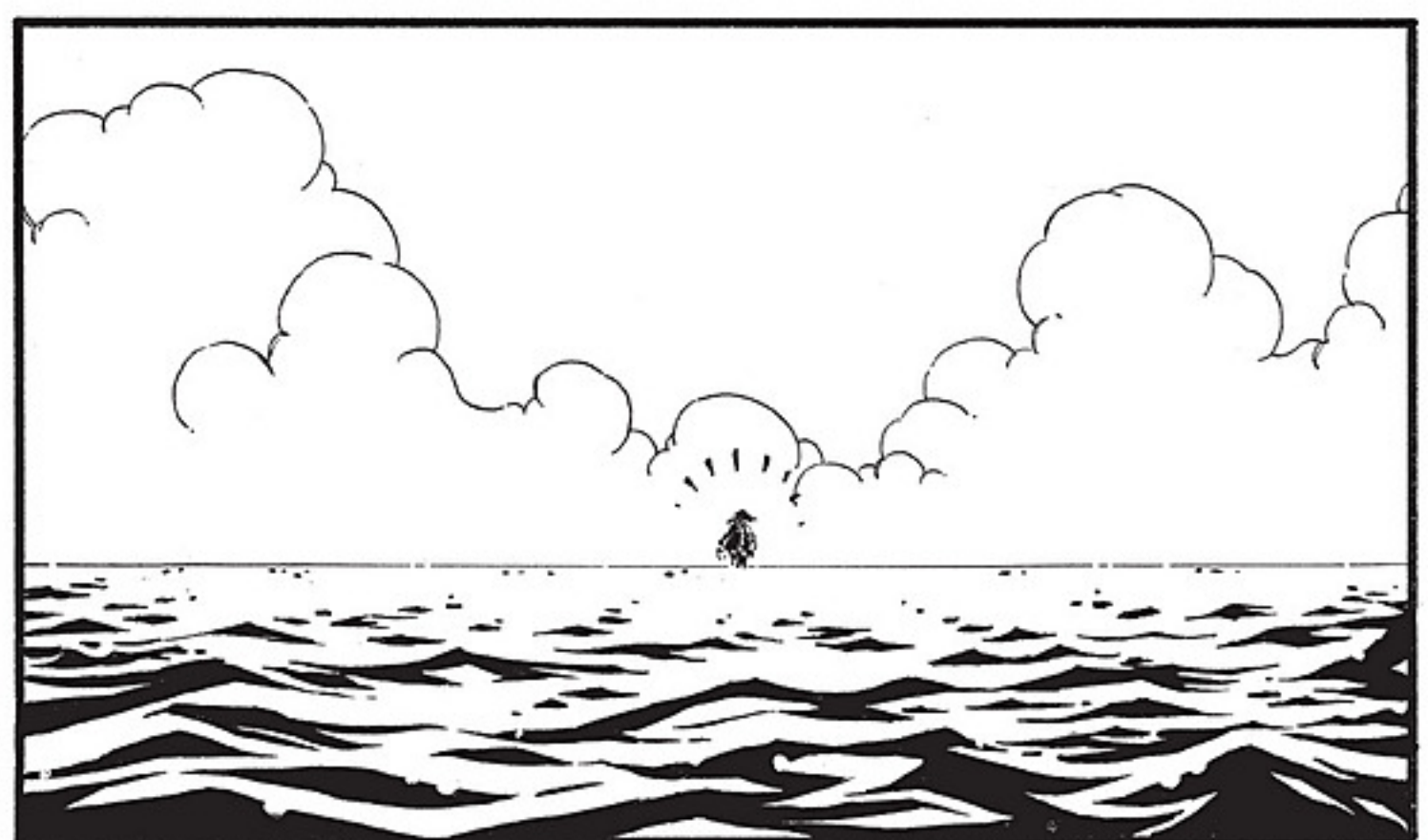
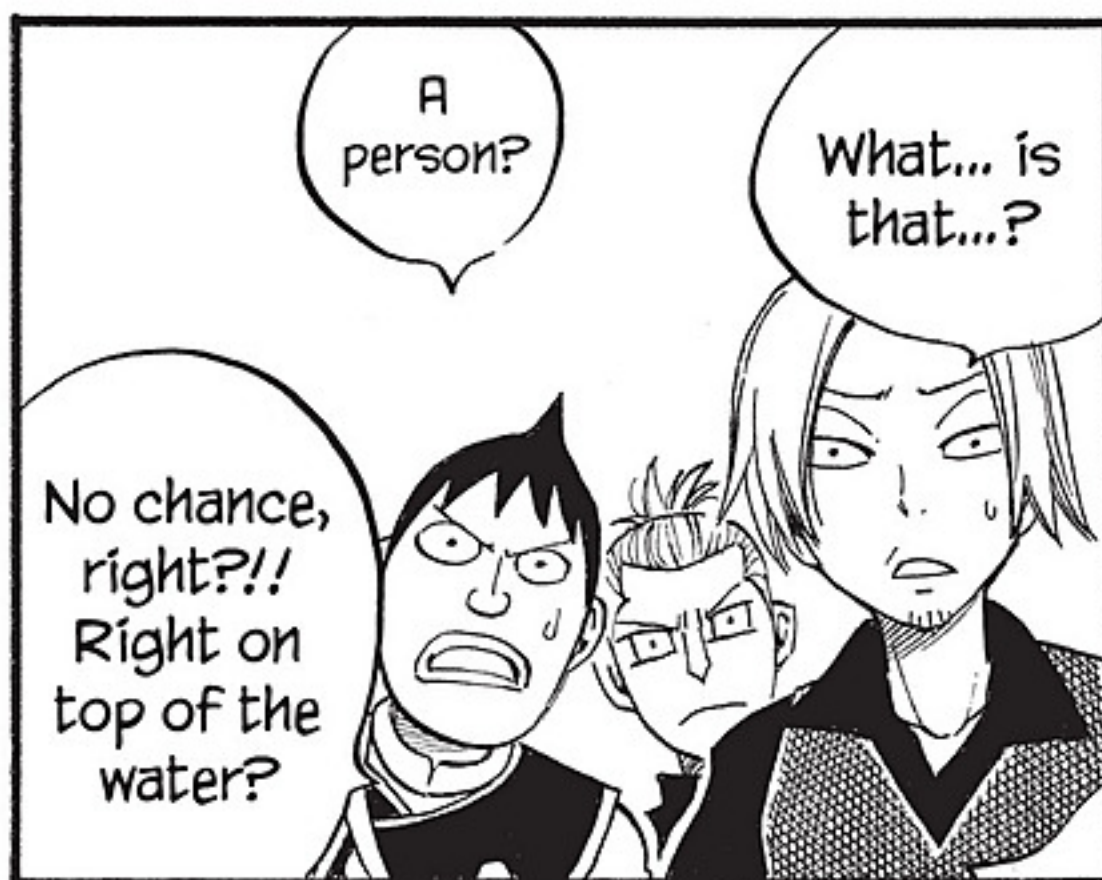
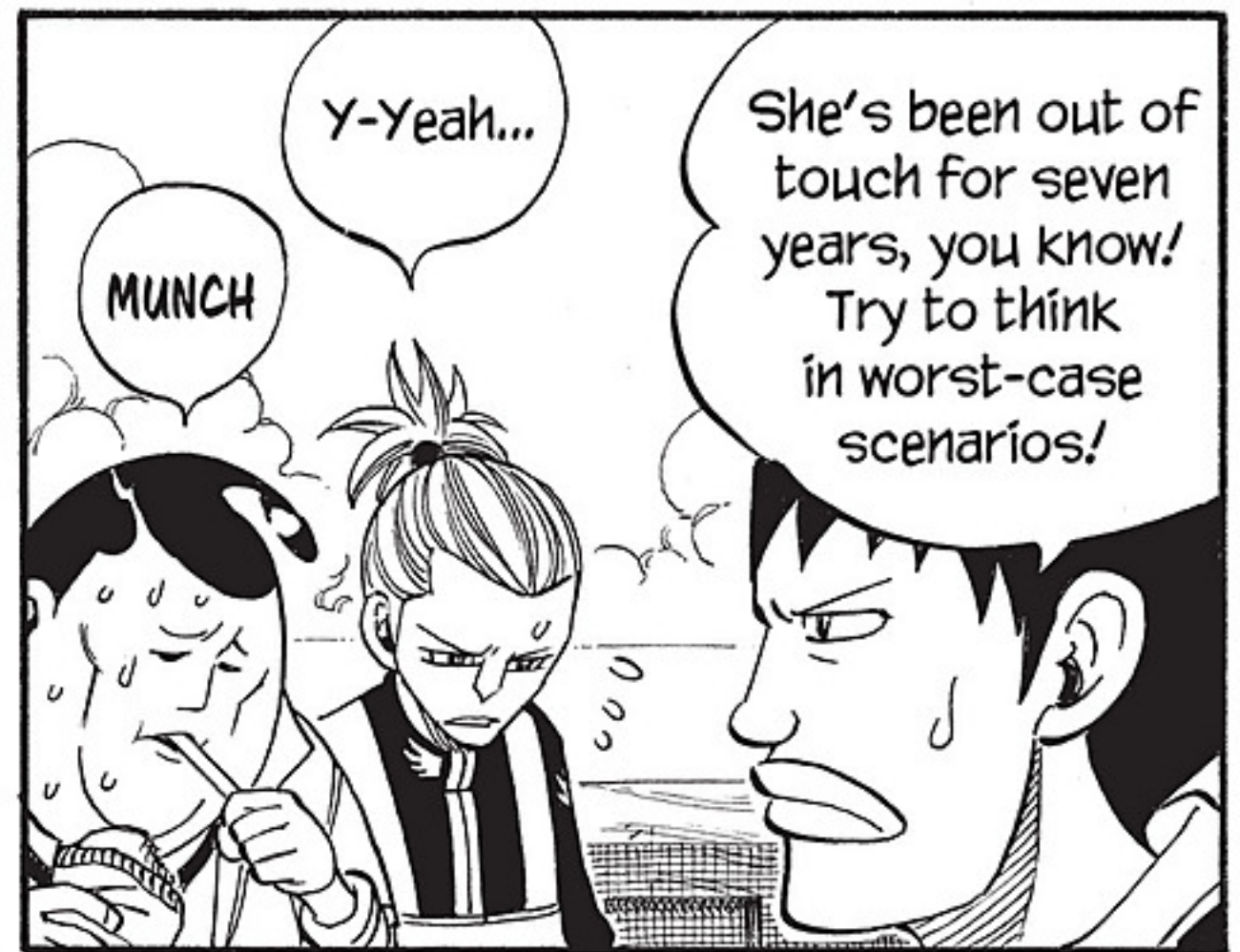
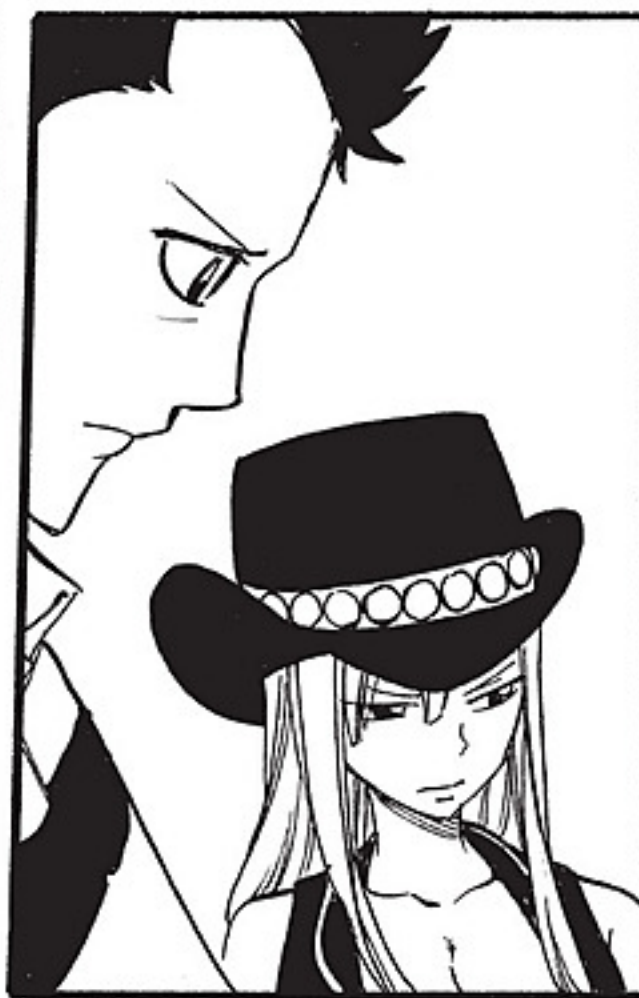
FAIRY TAIL

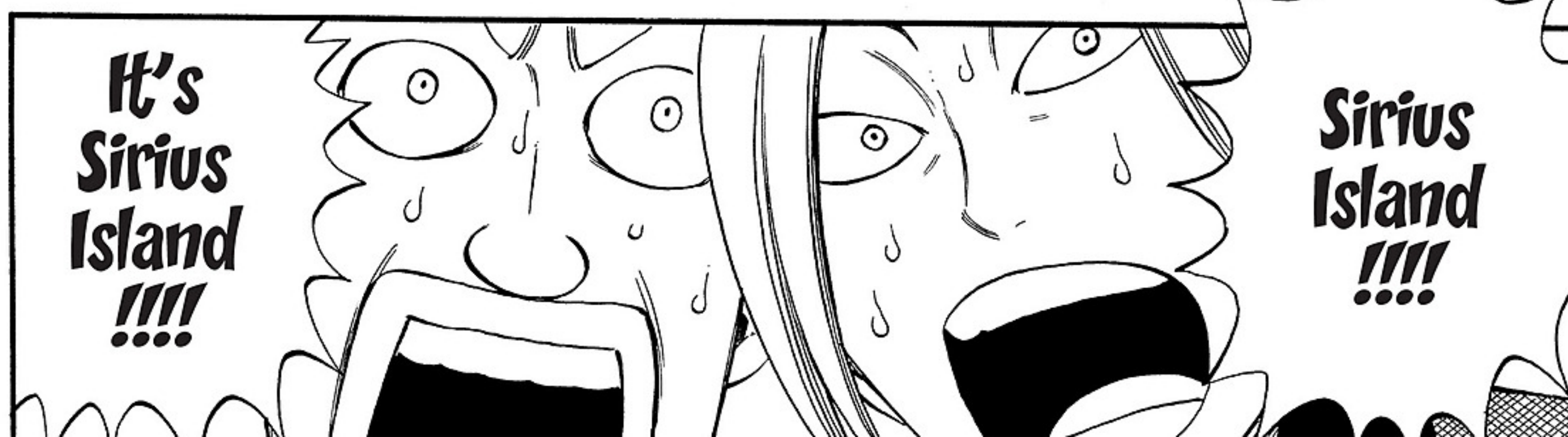
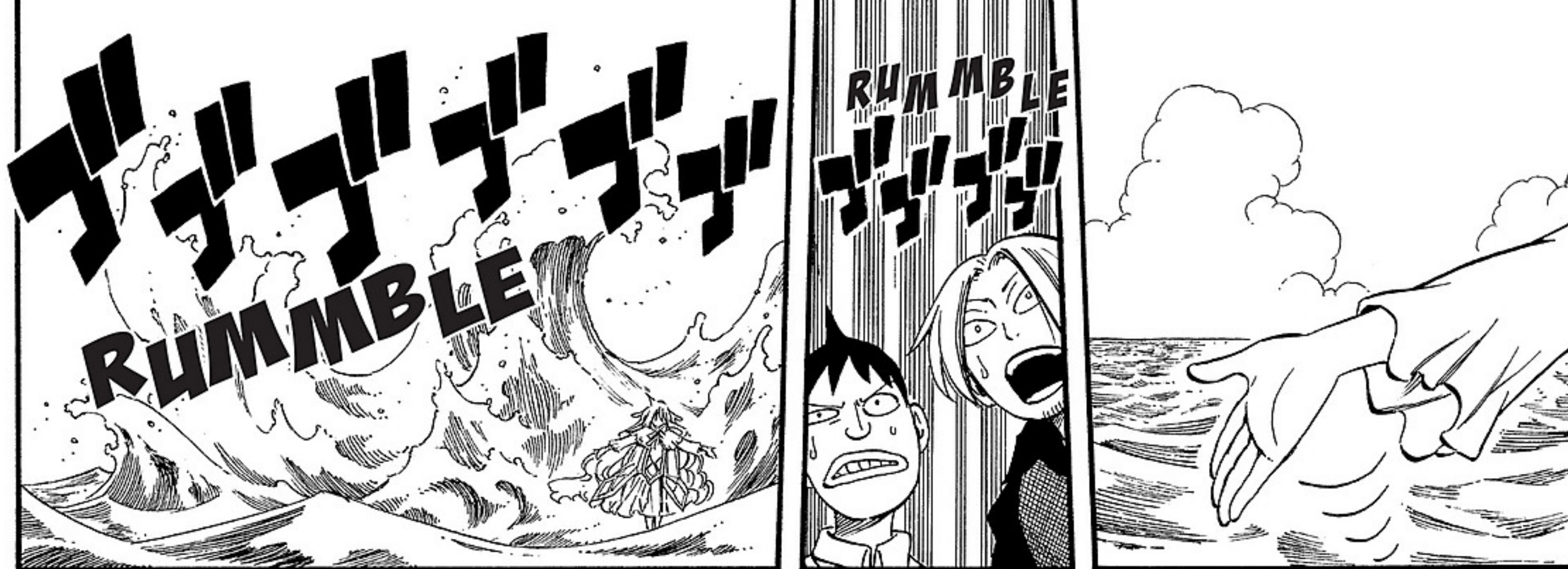
フェアリーテイル

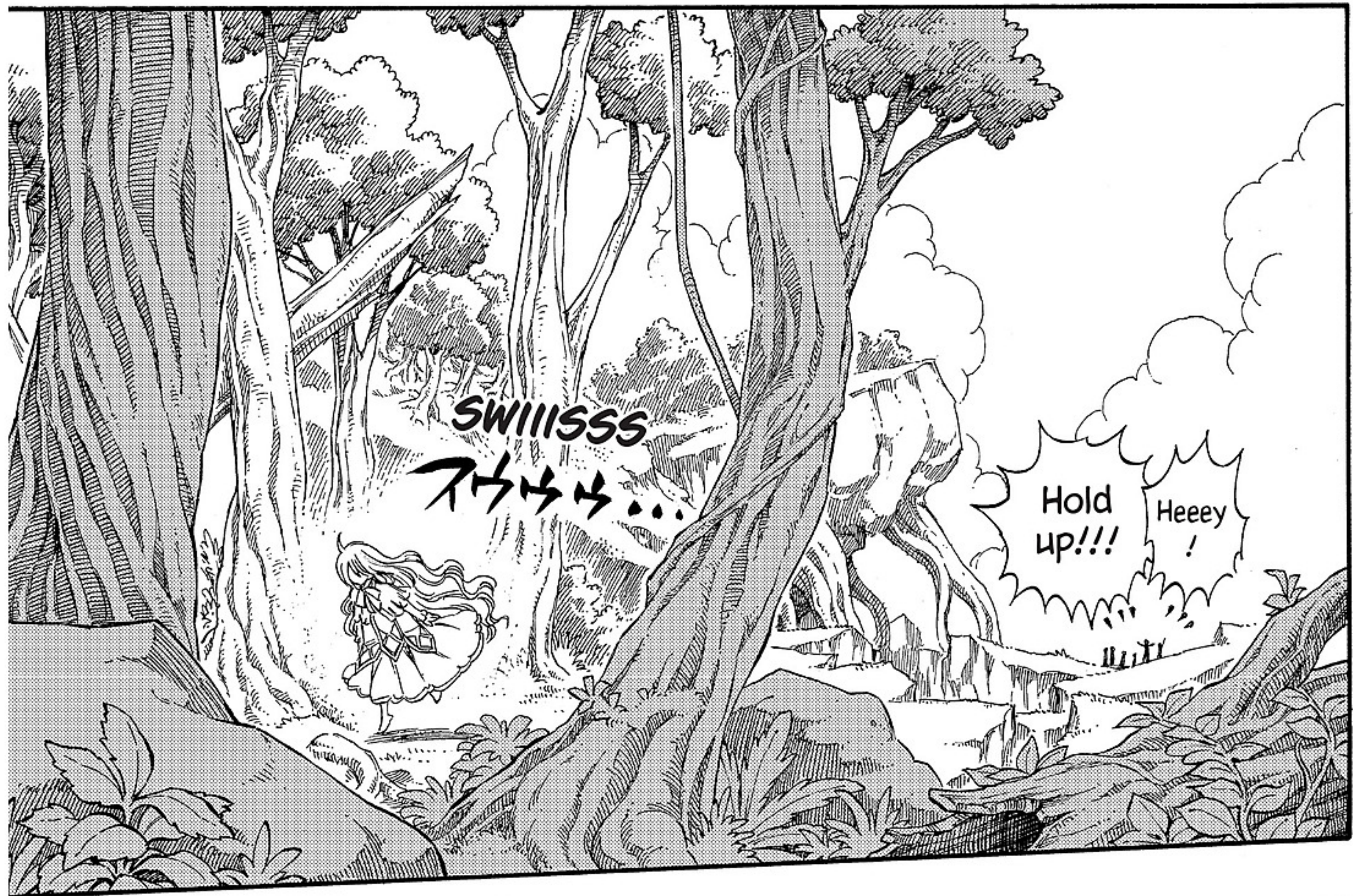
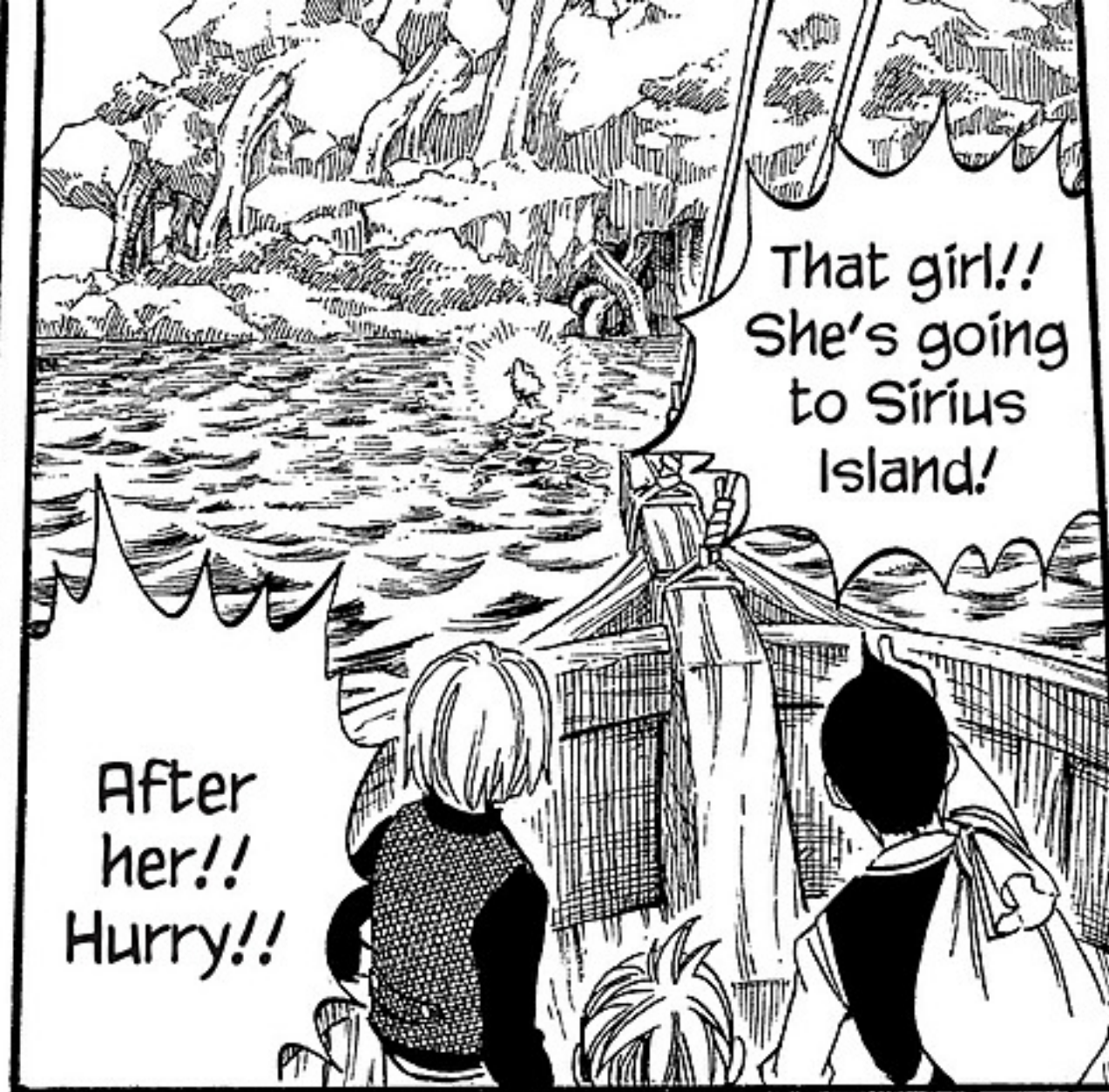
Chapter 255: Fairy Sphere

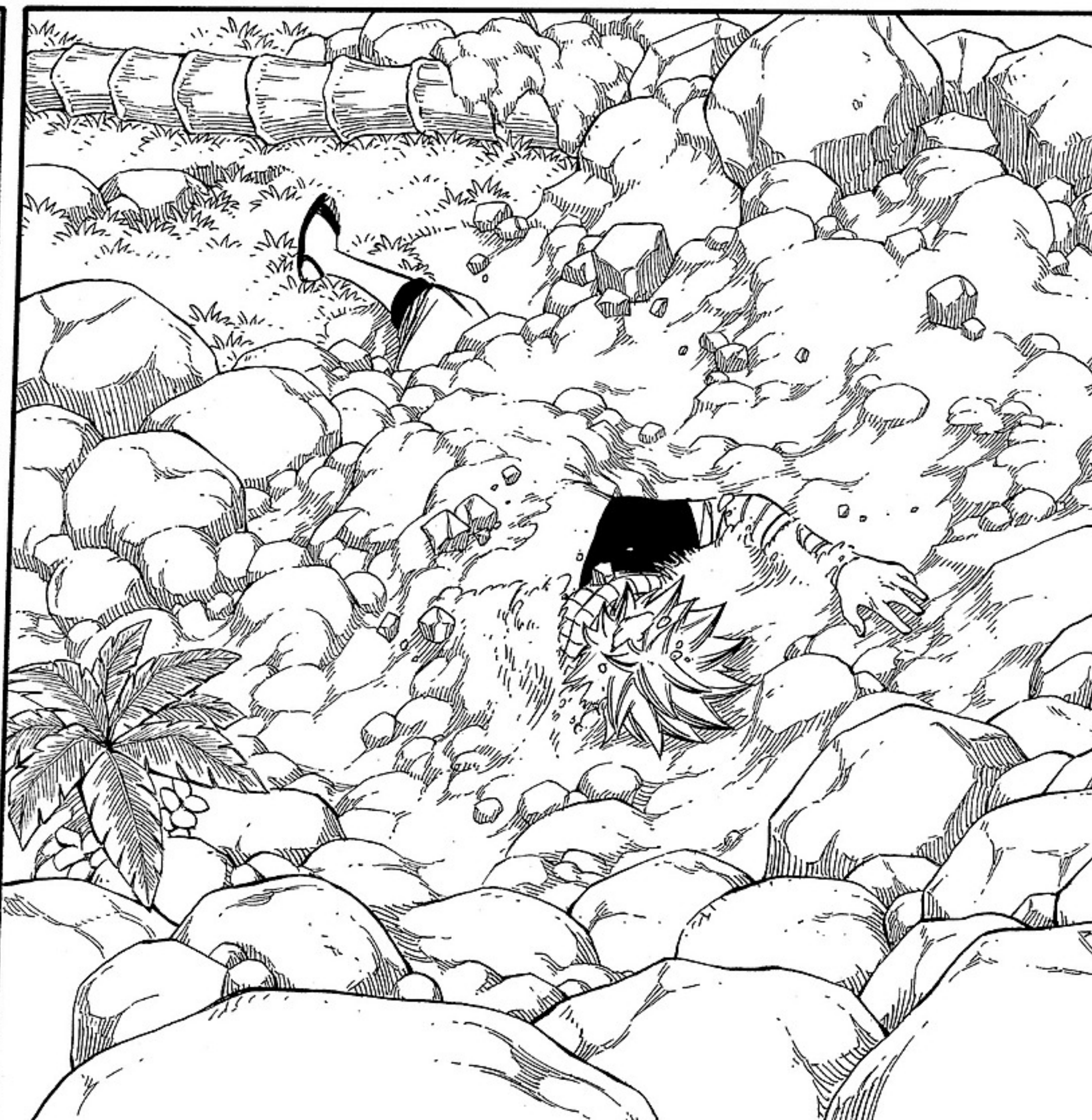
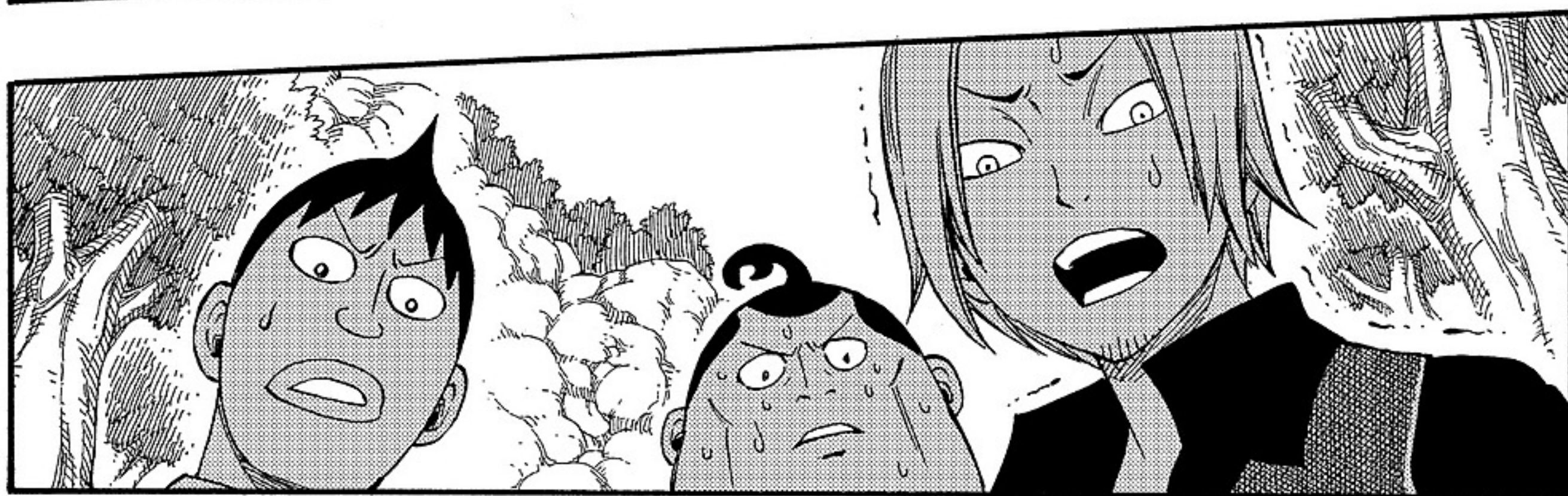
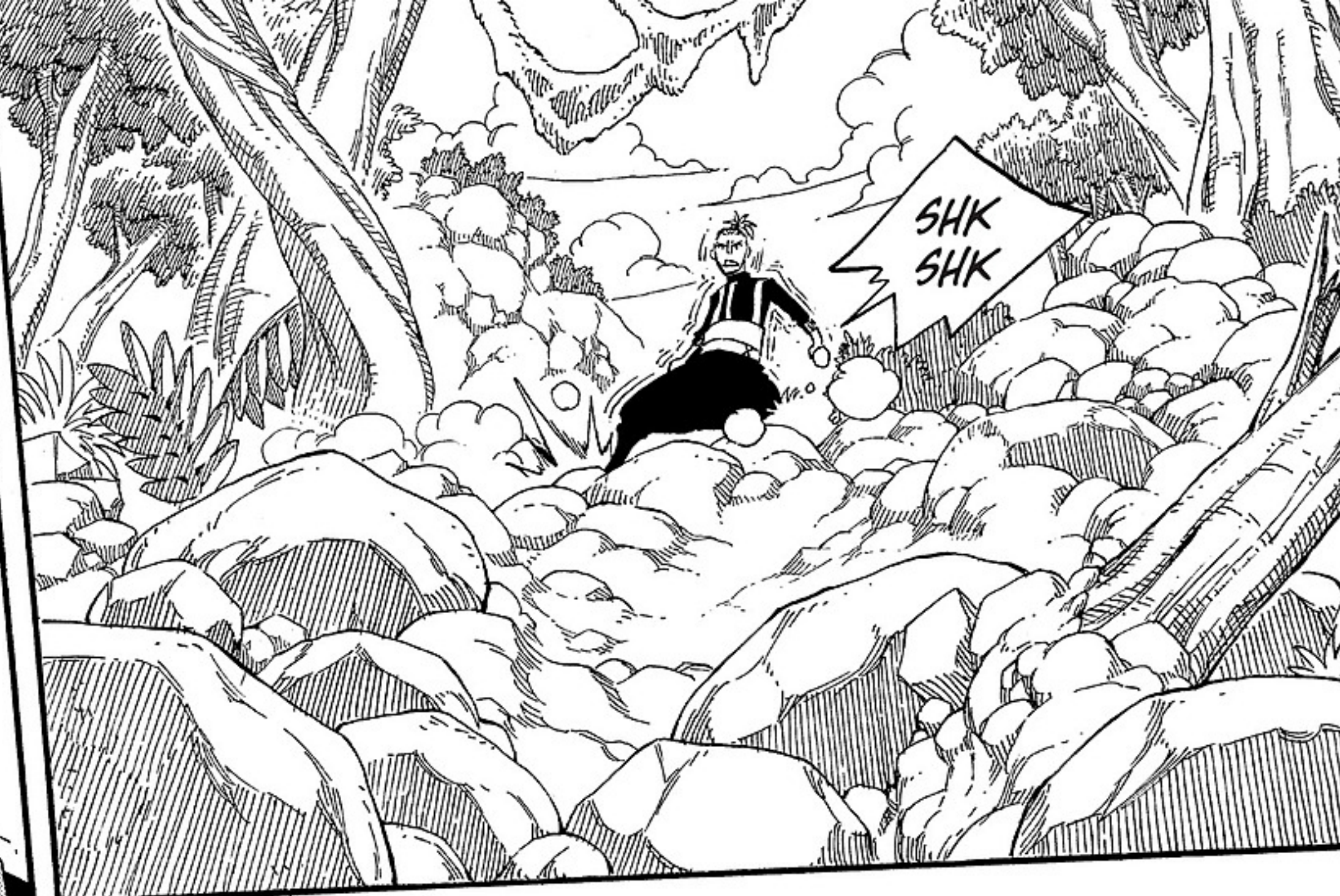
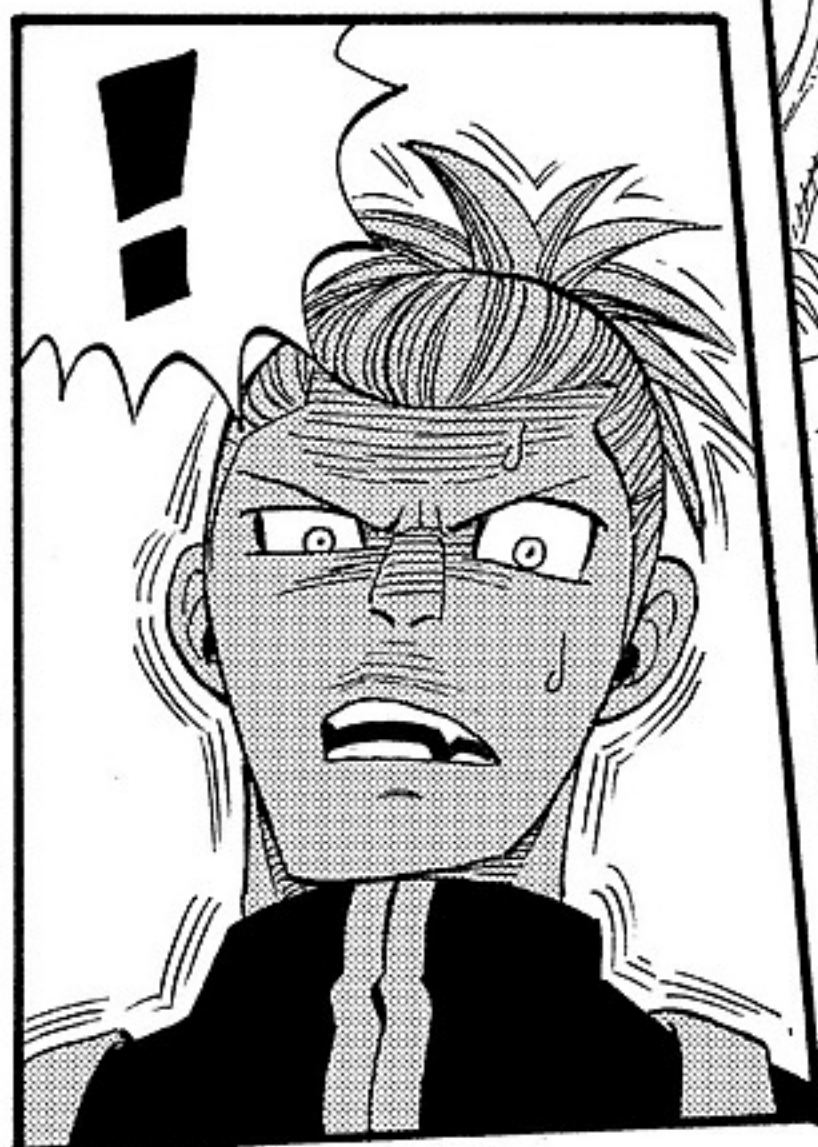


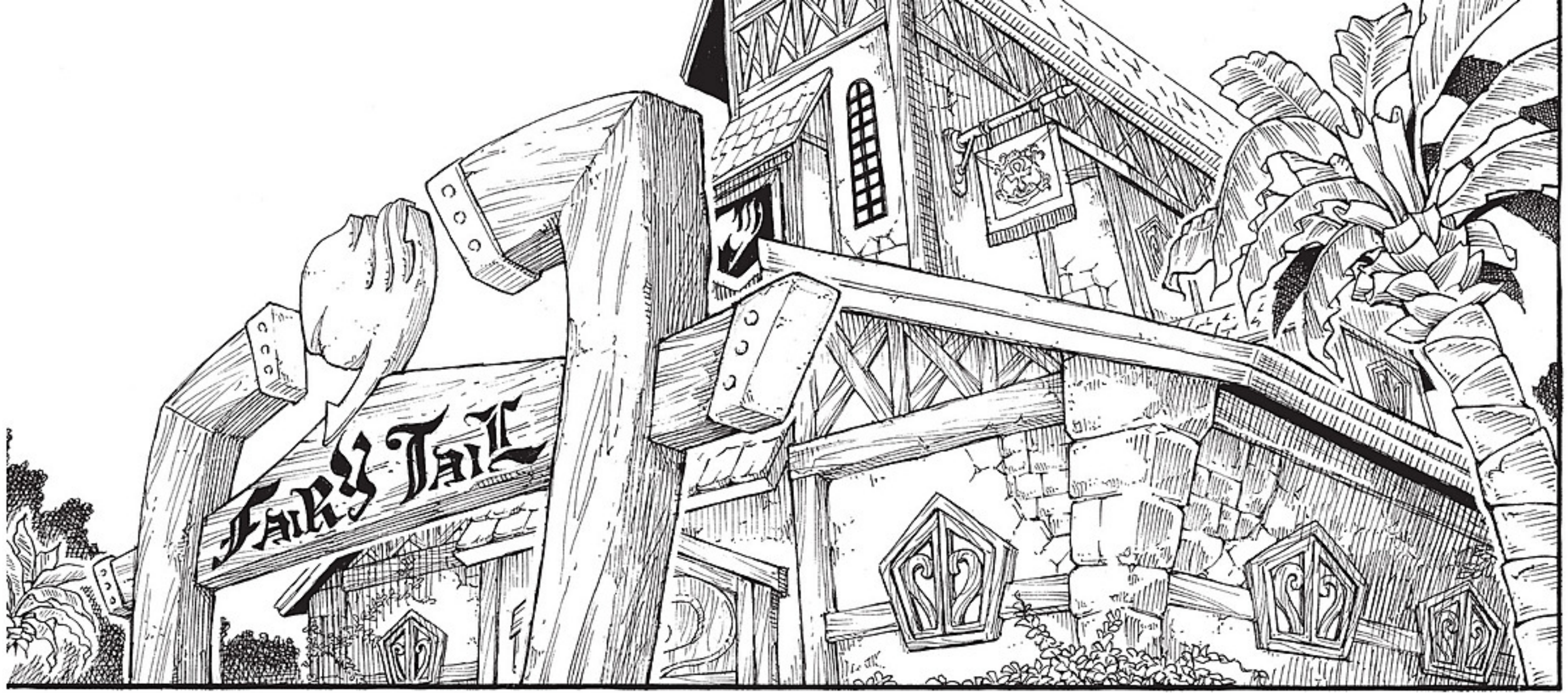


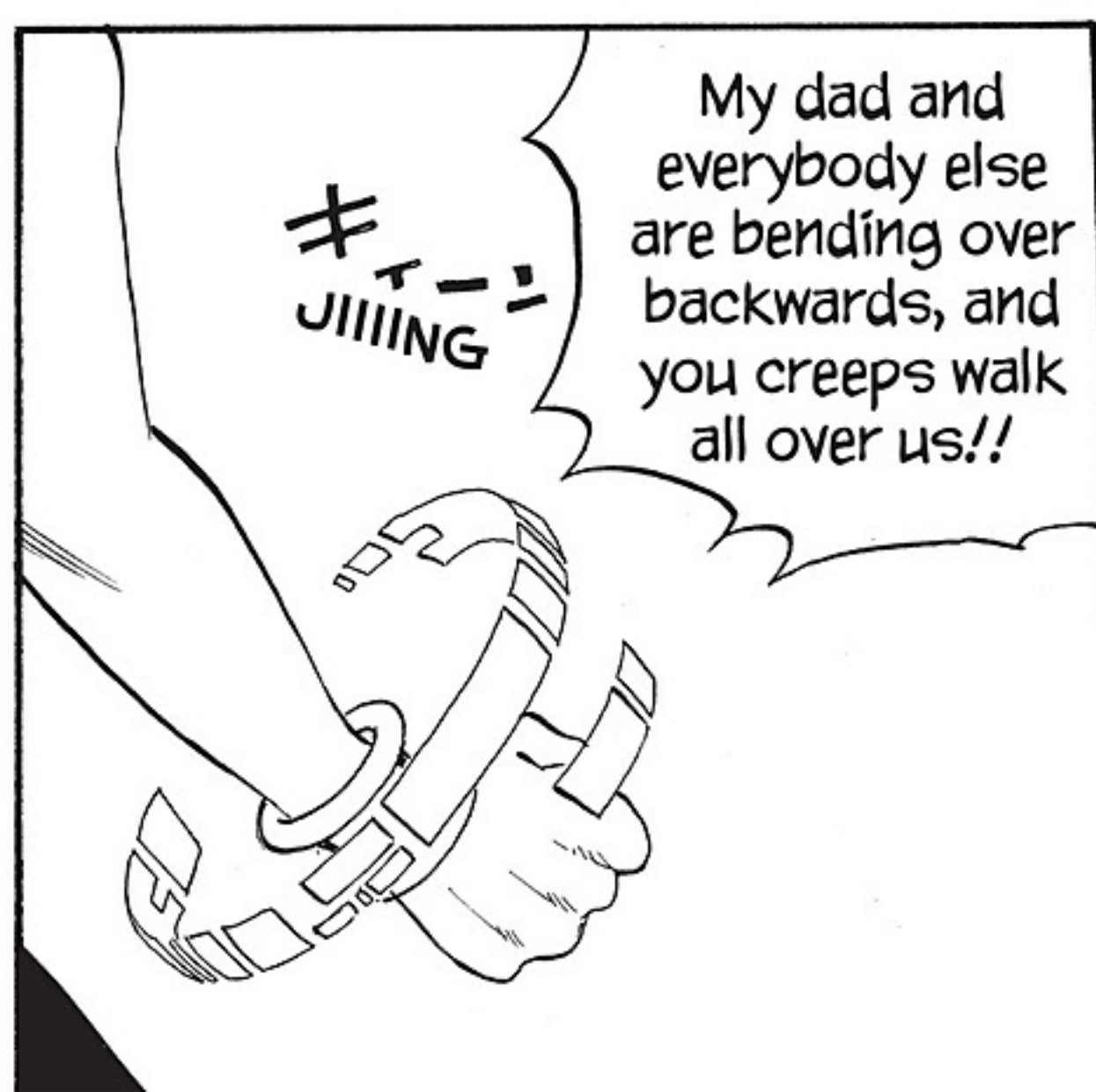
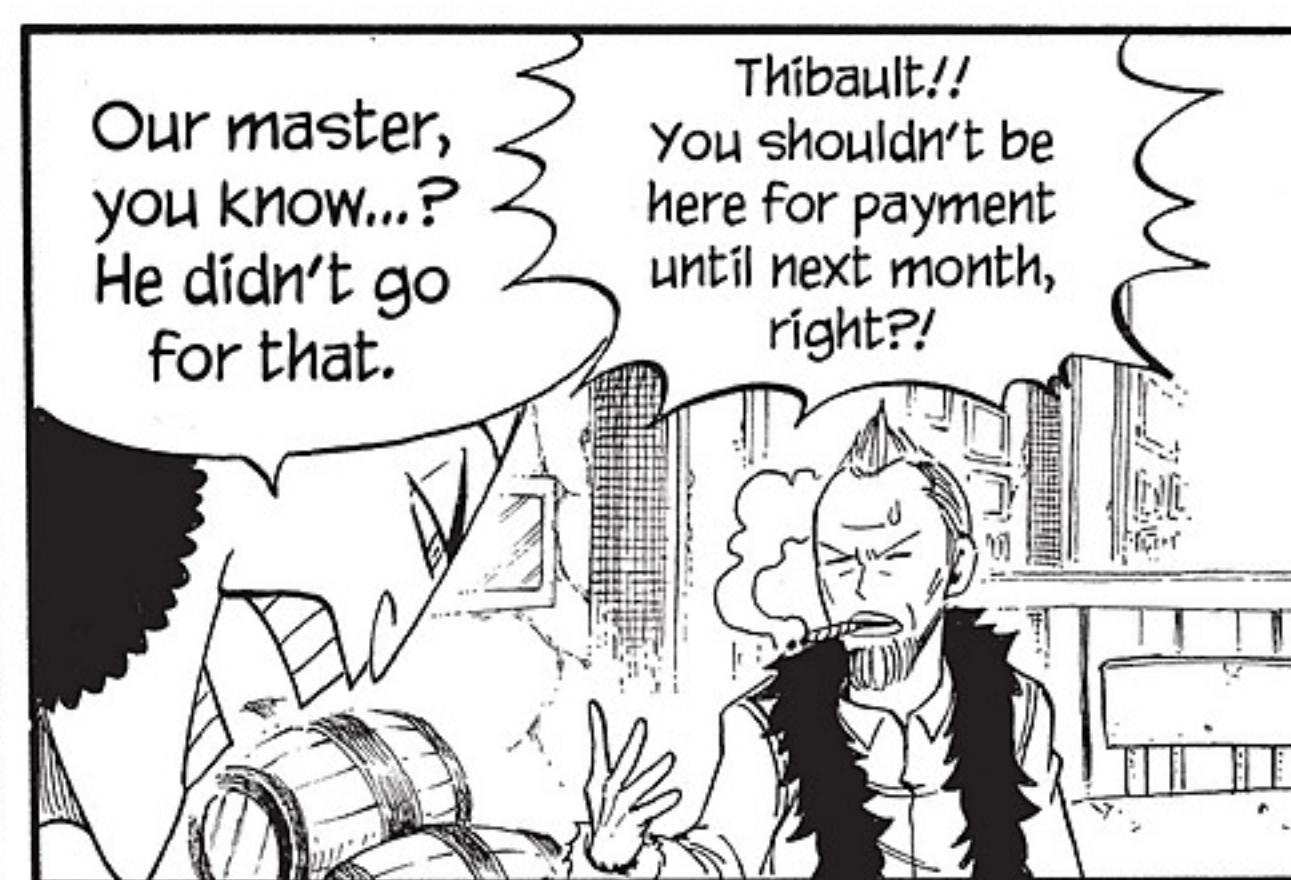
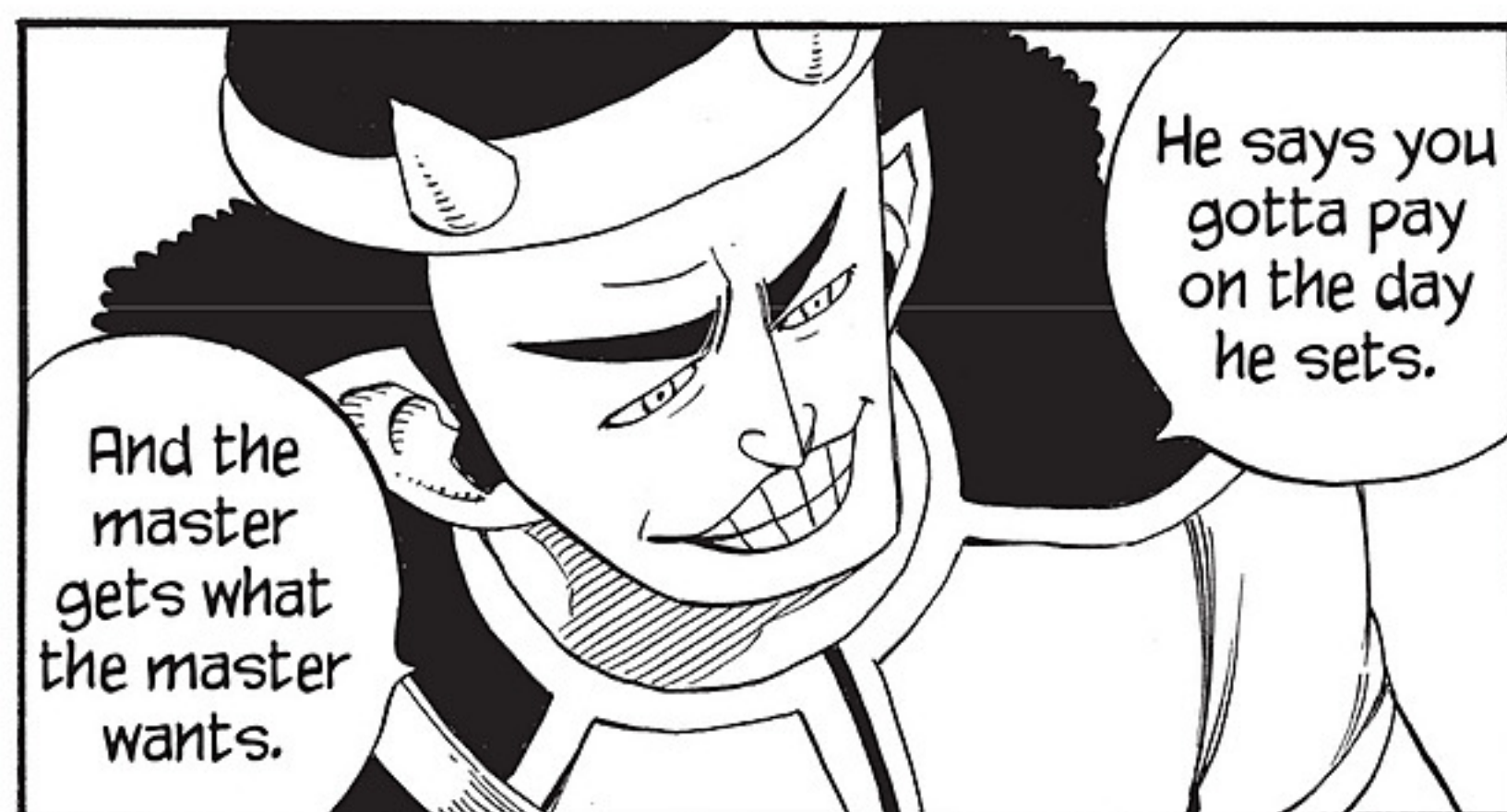




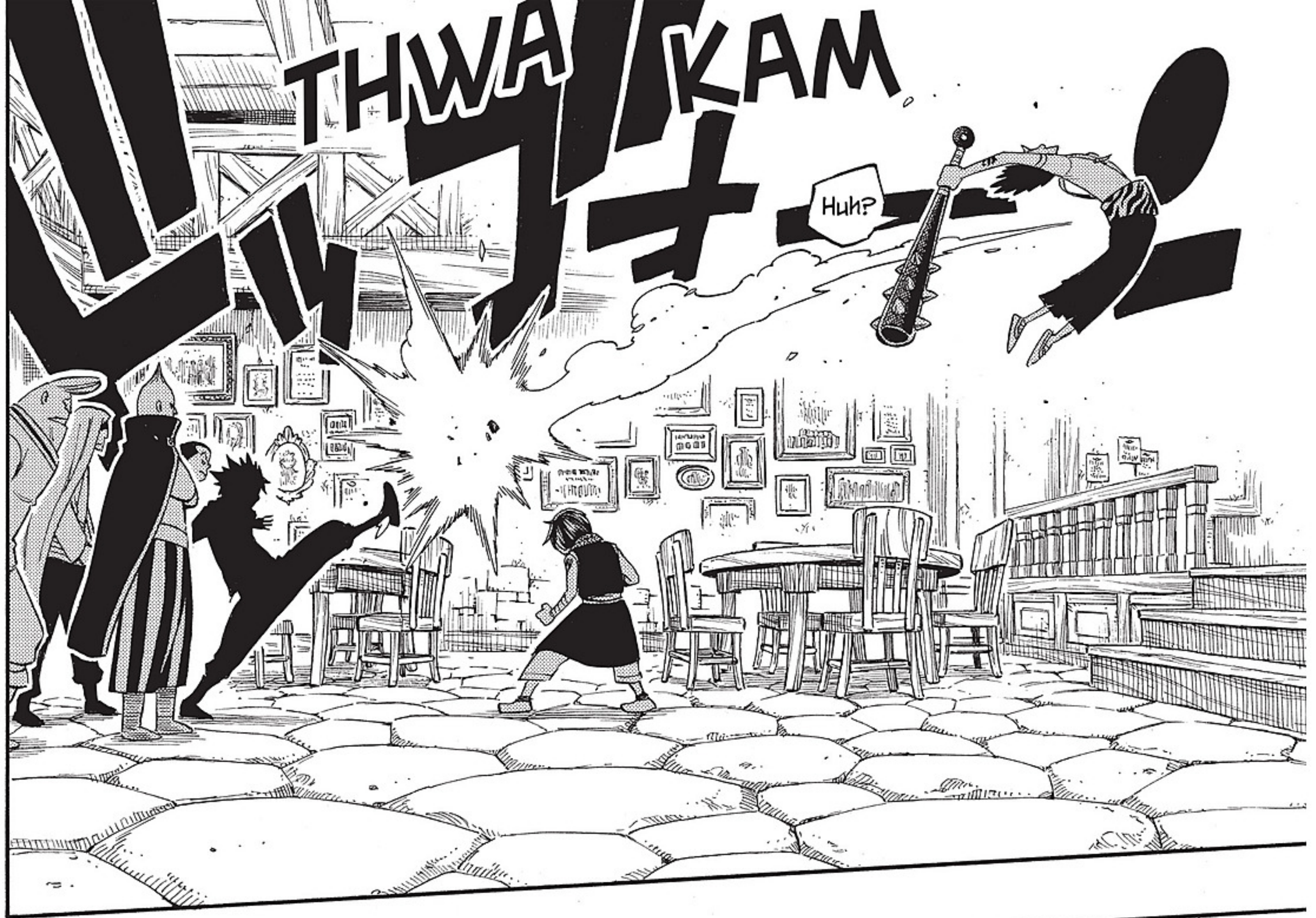


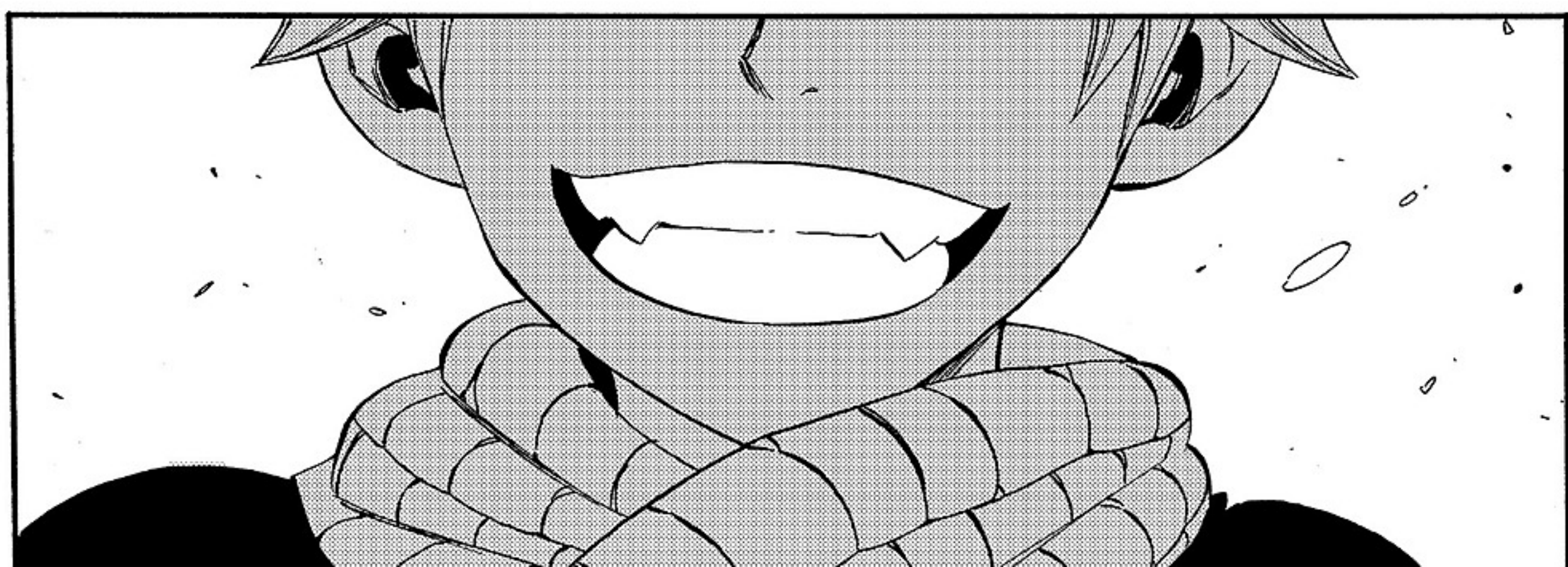














Wow! ♡
It's wonderful!

Yo.

Okay,
where's the
liquor?!

We're
home!

Humph!

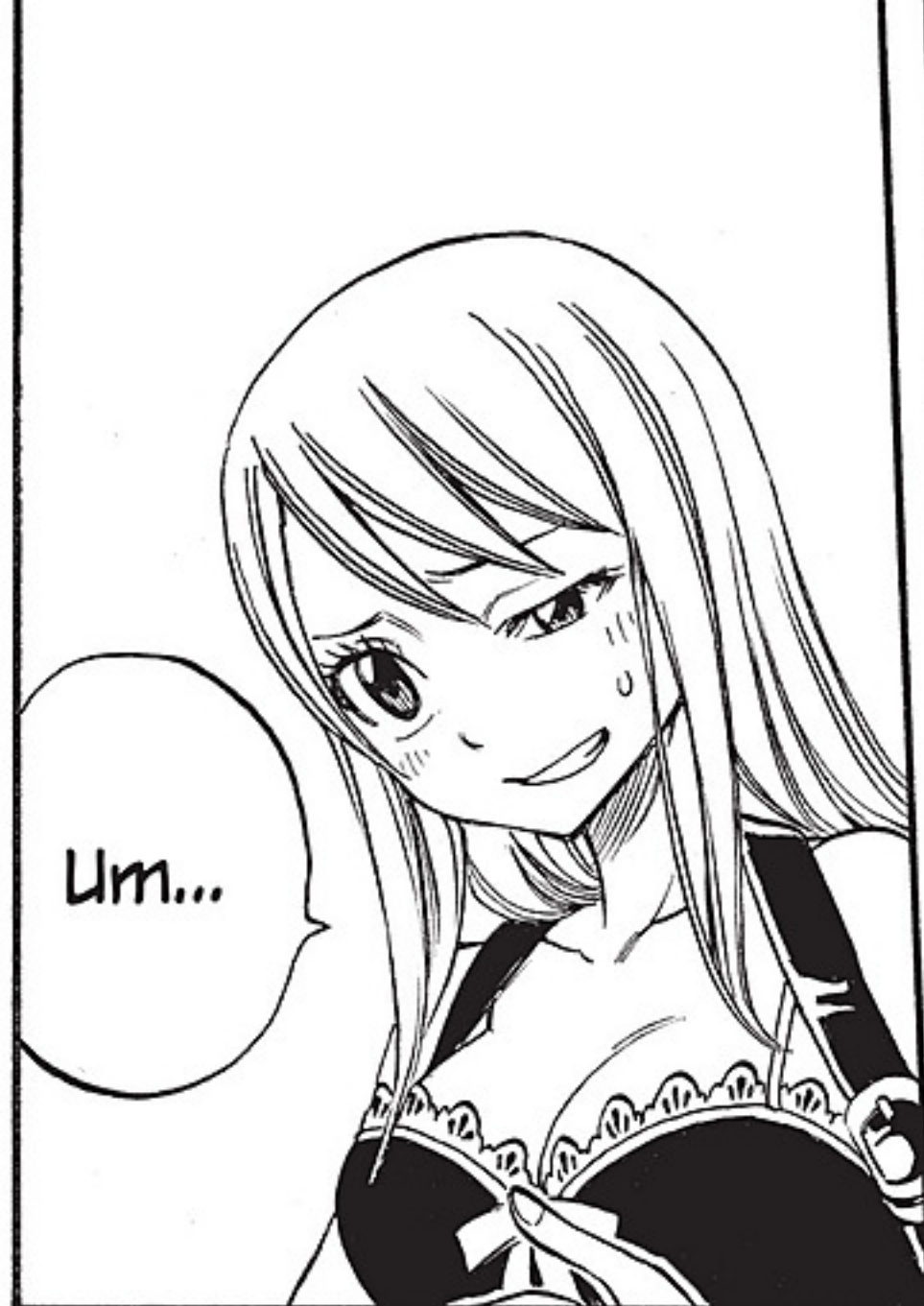
We have
returned.

We've
come
back!

How'd the
guild get so
little?

Everybody!

BAAAAA AAM



Um...



What happened here?!

You guys haven't changed in seven years!!

You're so young !!!



I-I-I-It's you...



Natsu !!!

Wake up, you jerk!!!

Natsu, wake up!!

Come on!!



DOHAM

NGAH !!

Gaaah !!!

Natsu !!!!

Waaah !!!

AAAWWW!!!
SHUT UP!!!!



Well *you* haven't changed a bit!!

Wait a minute! Don't you guys look *old* now?!!

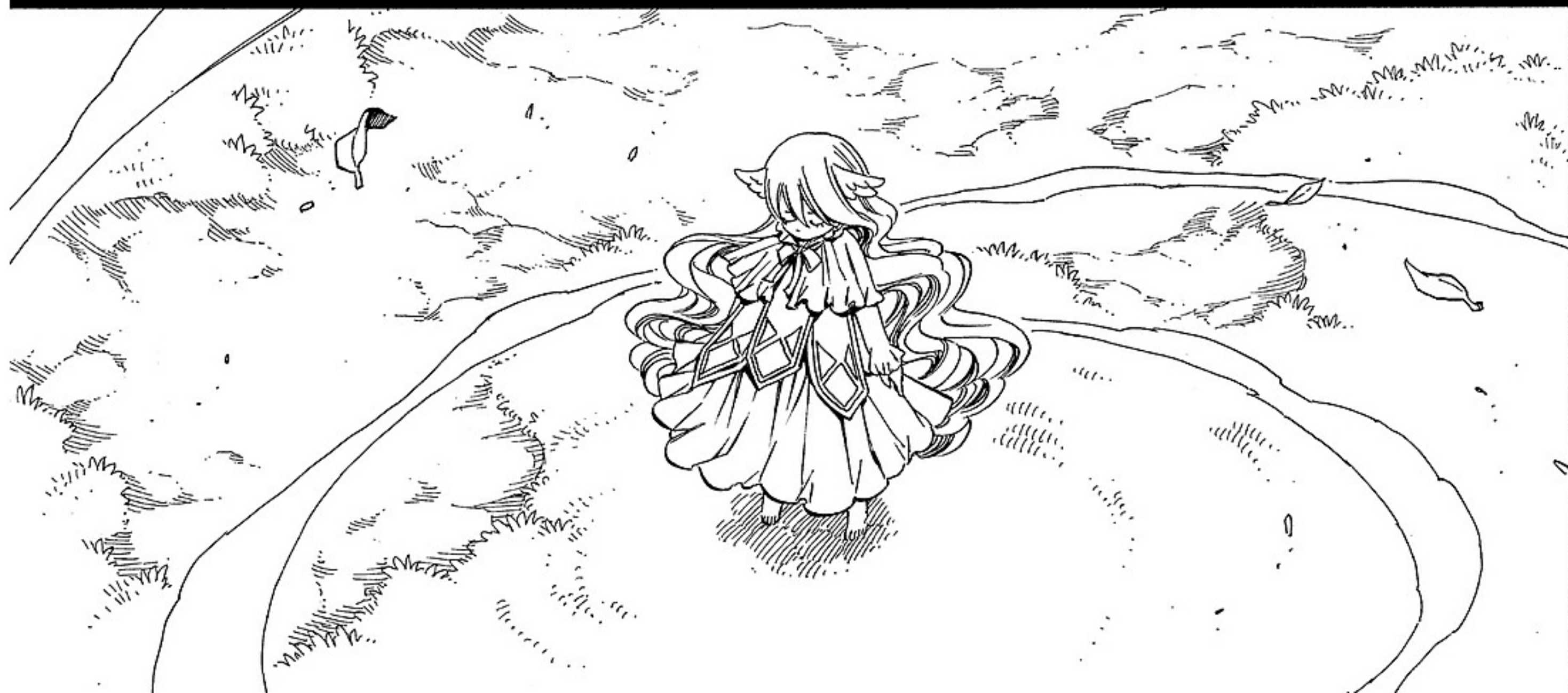
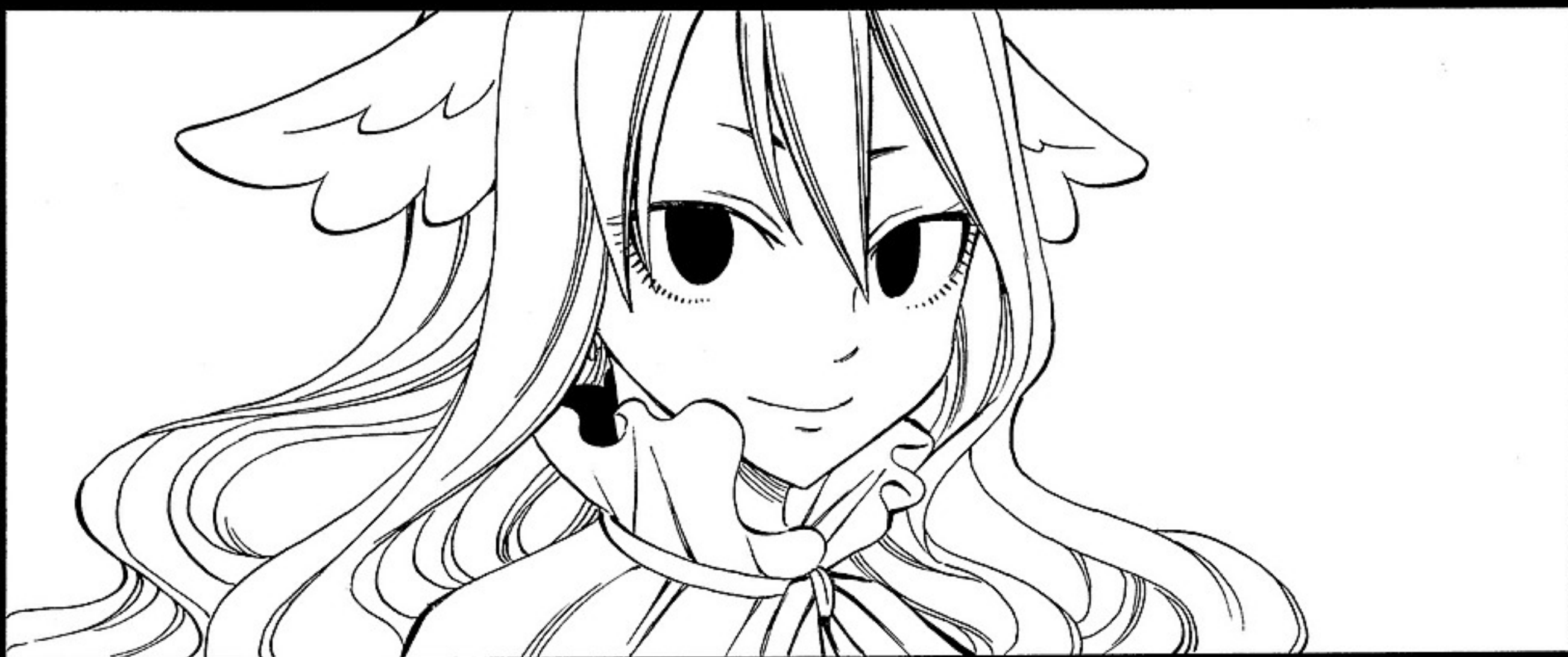
And wait! Droy... you're fat!



What's going on...?!!

What're *you* guys doing here...?

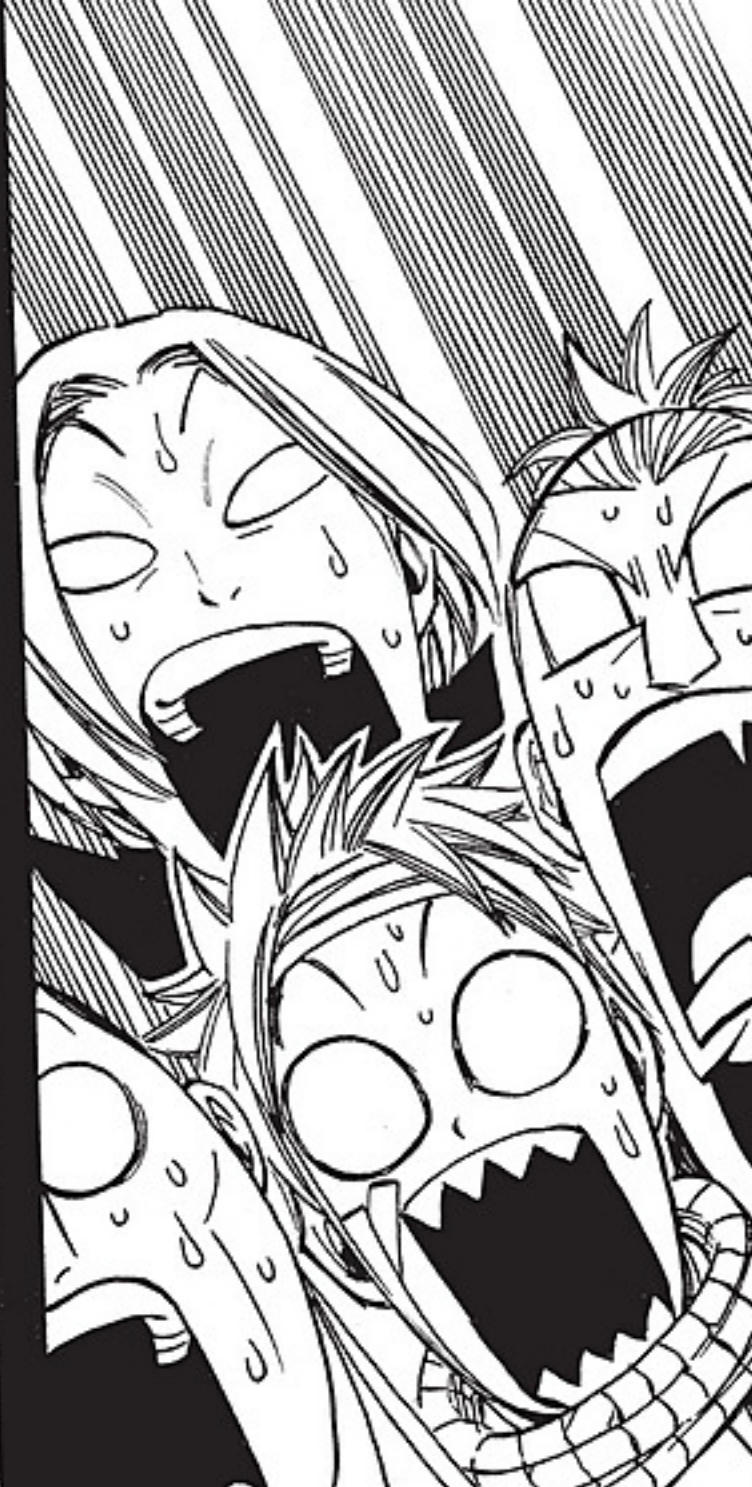
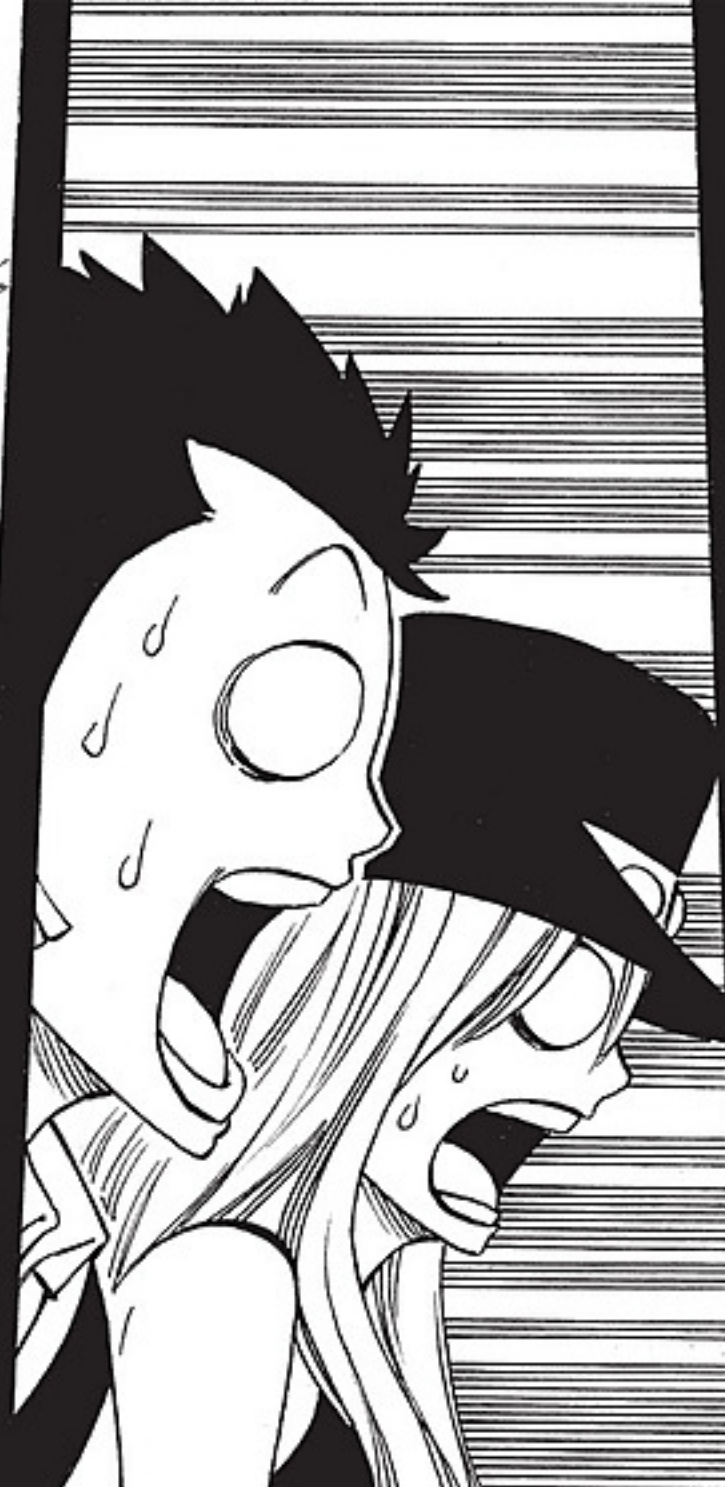






**My name
is Mavis.**

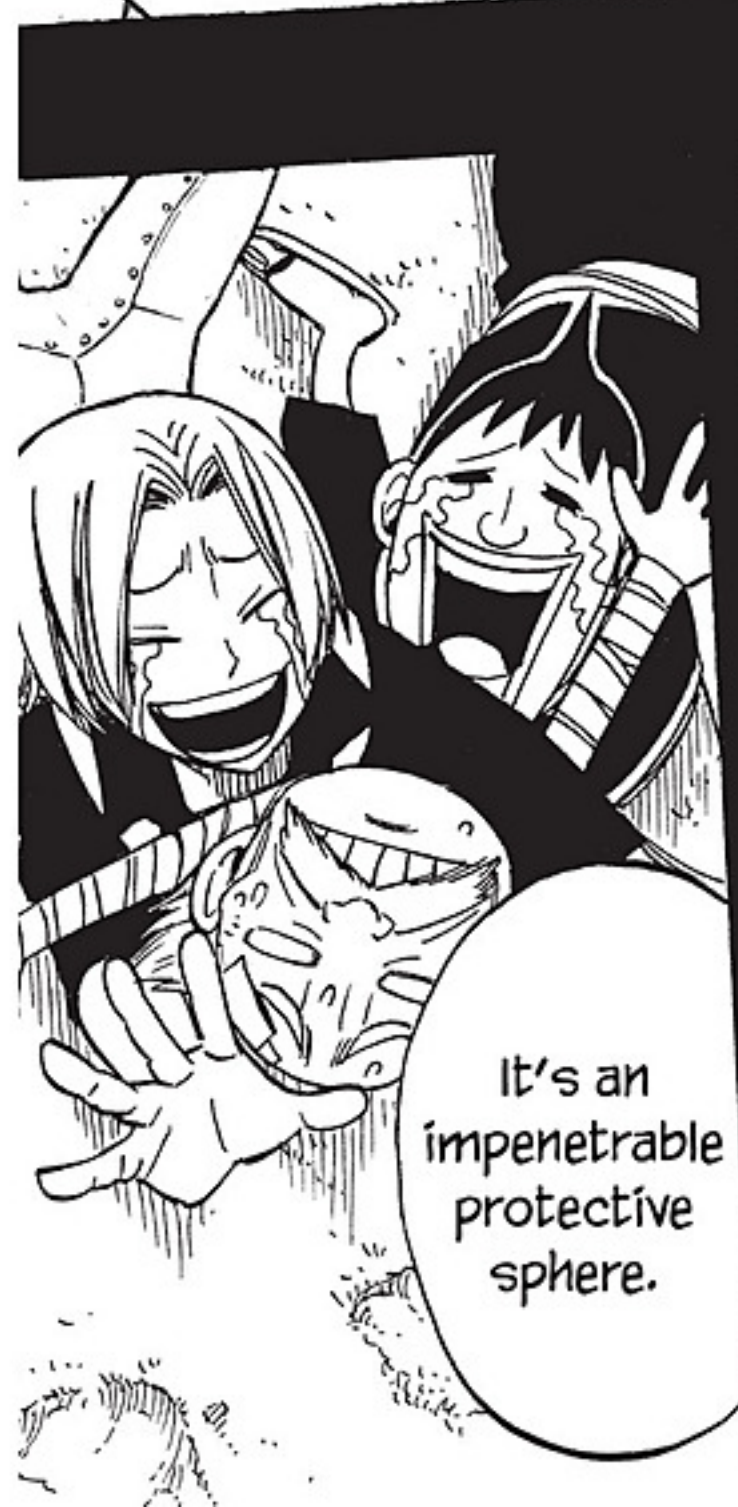
**Fairy Tail's
first master,
Mavis
Vermillion.**



...into pure magic.



When the dragon attacked, I was able to convert the bonds of trust and friendship between guild mates...



It's an impenetrable protective sphere.



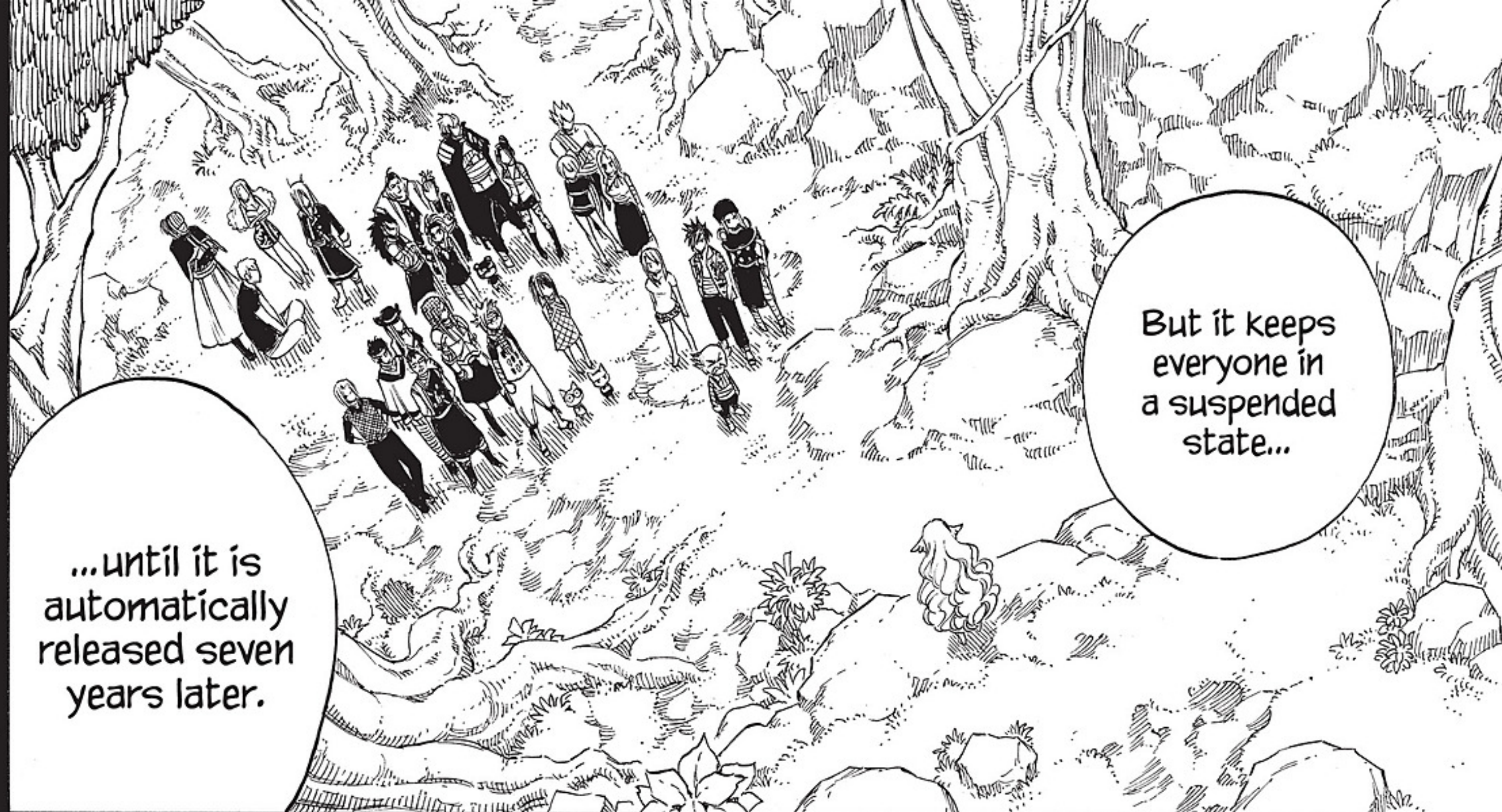
That magic protects the guild from all sorts of evils.



Fairy Sphere.

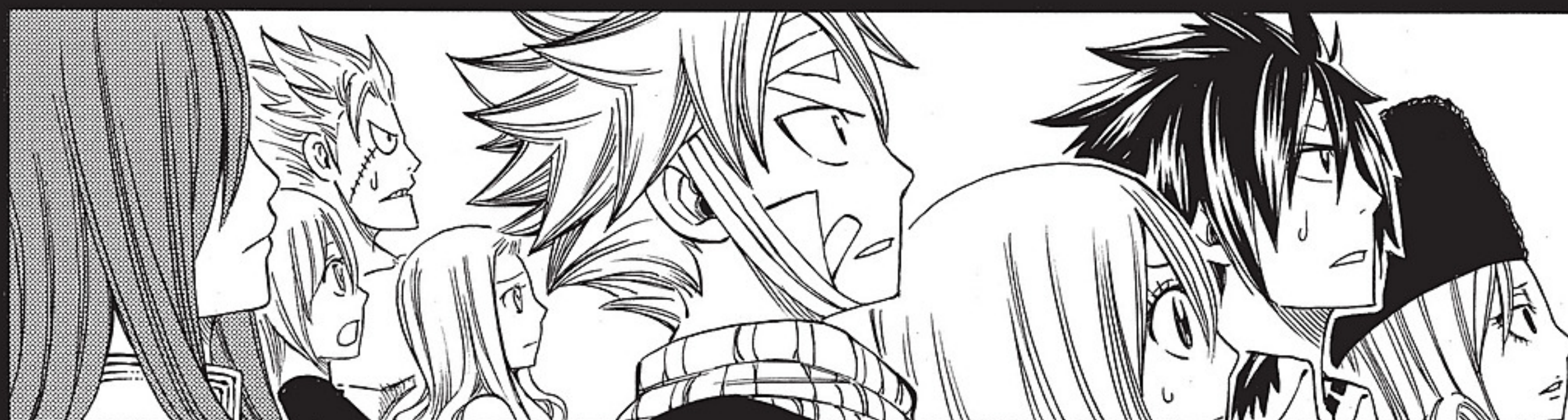


Everyone's shared wish became the third of the great Fairy magics...

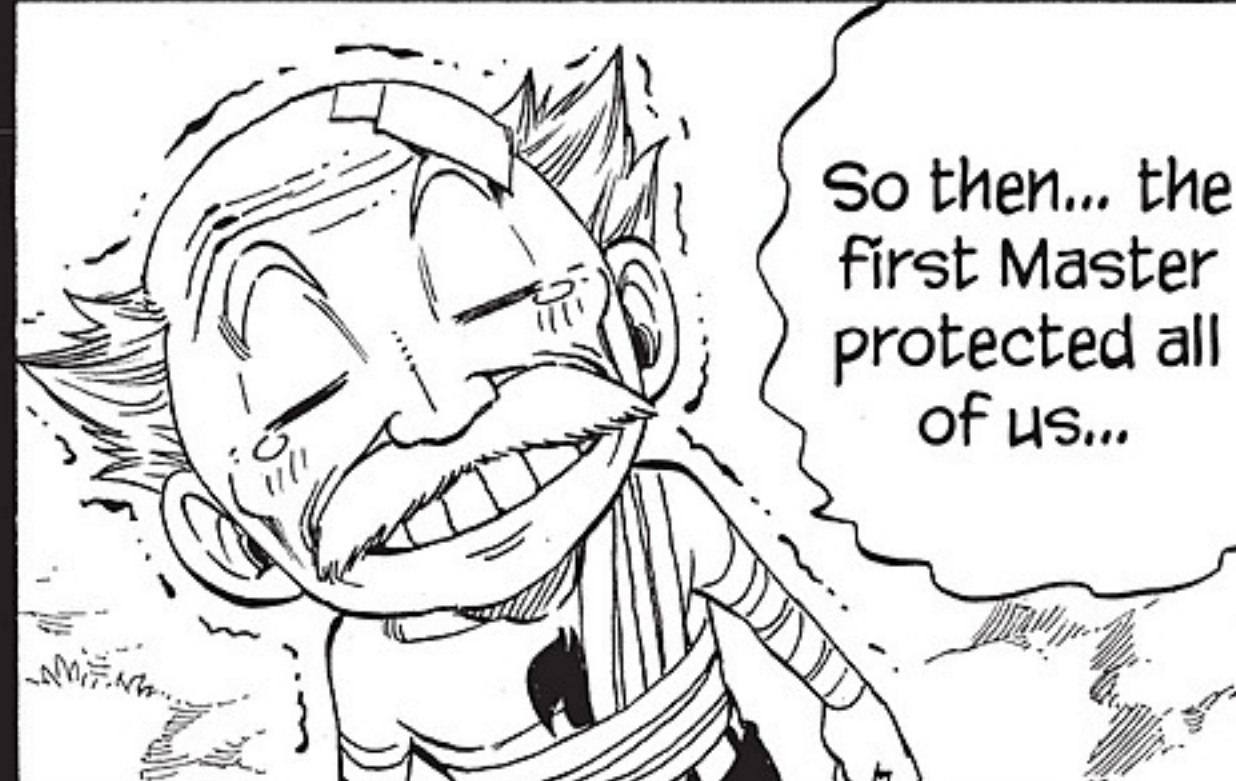


...until it is
automatically
released seven
years later.

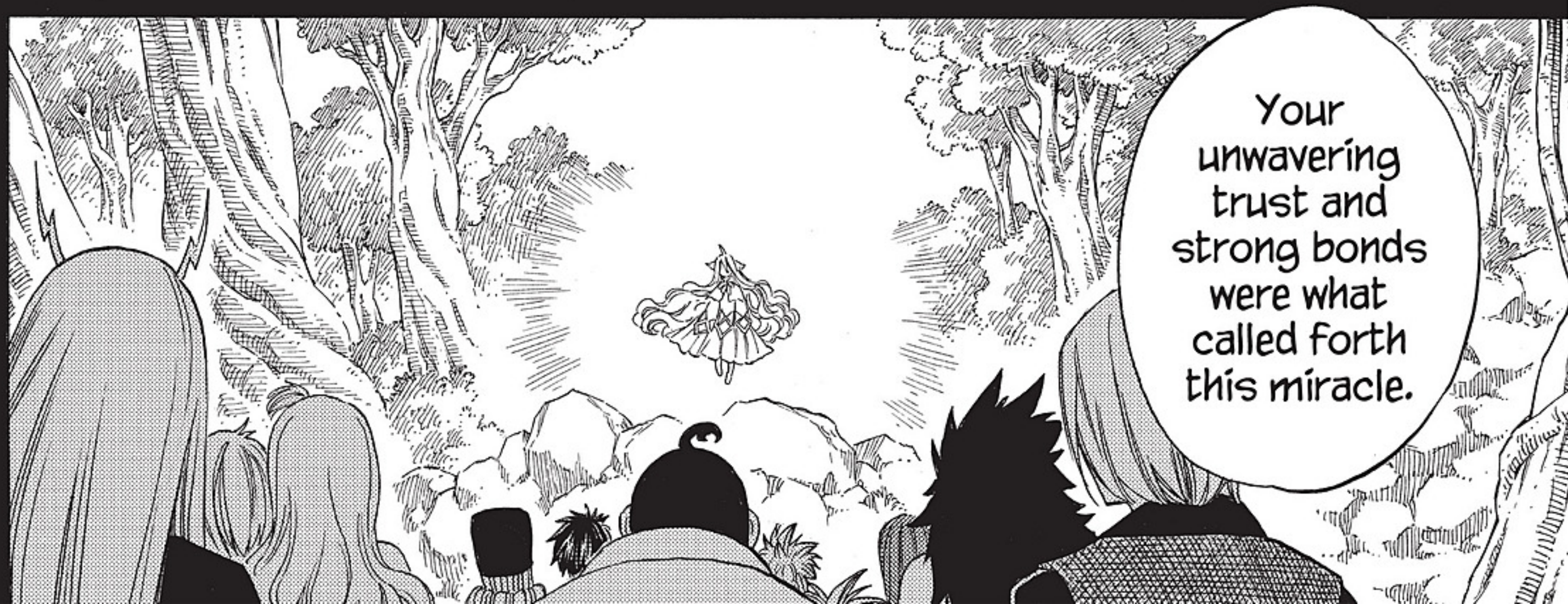
But it keeps
everyone in
a suspended
state...



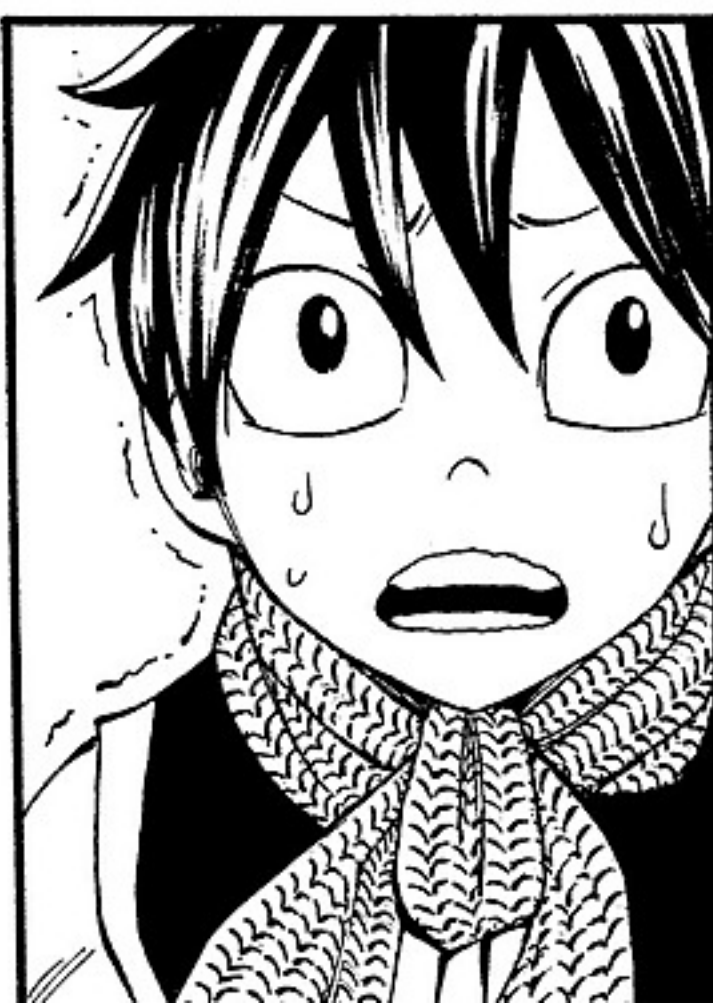
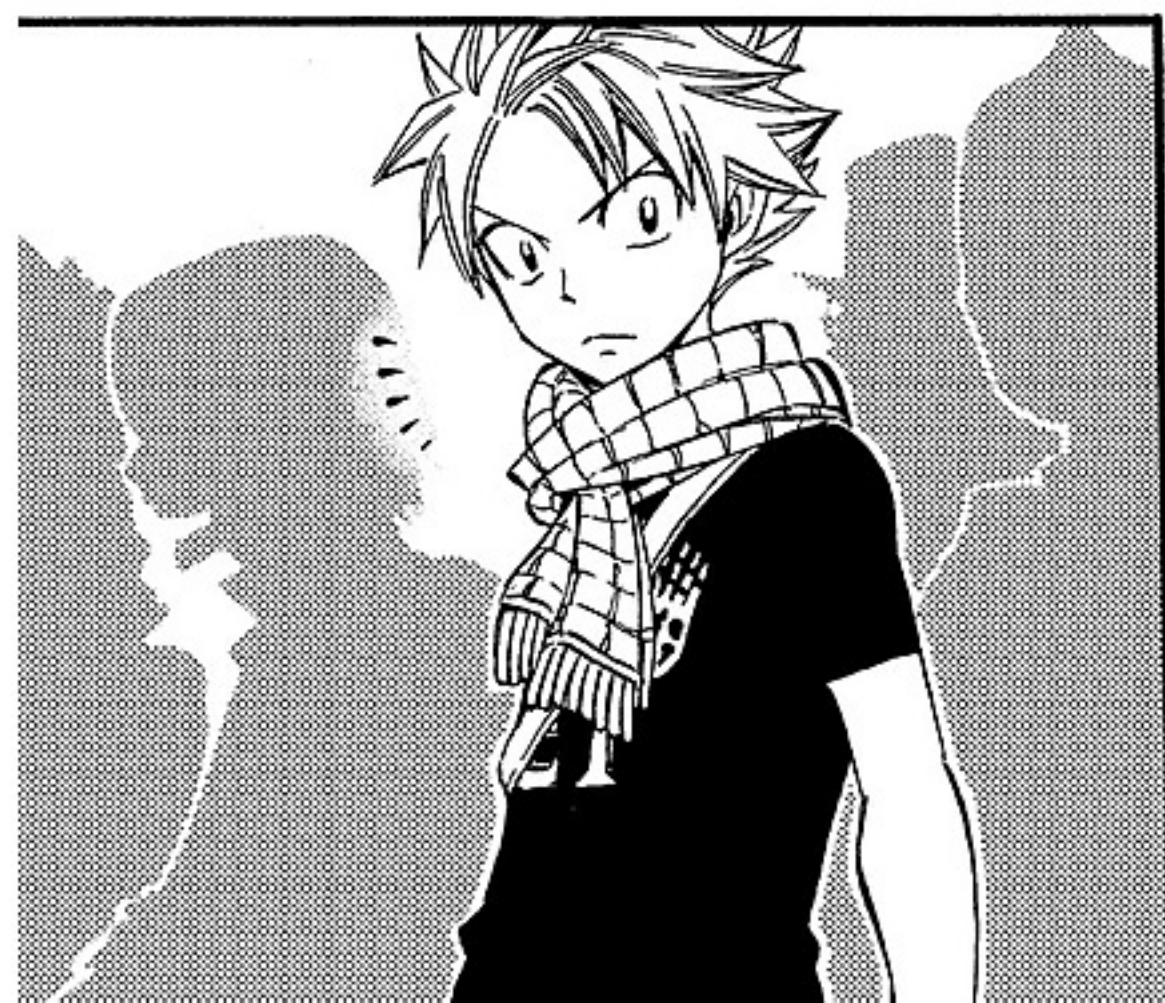
No... I am a
disembodied
spirit. It was all
I could do to
transform all of
your magic.

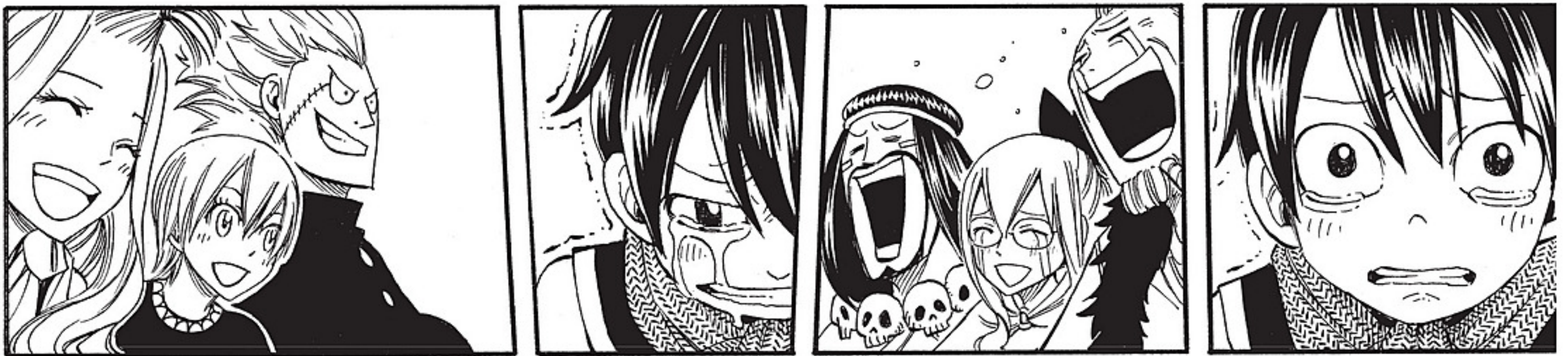


So then... the
first Master
protected all
of us...

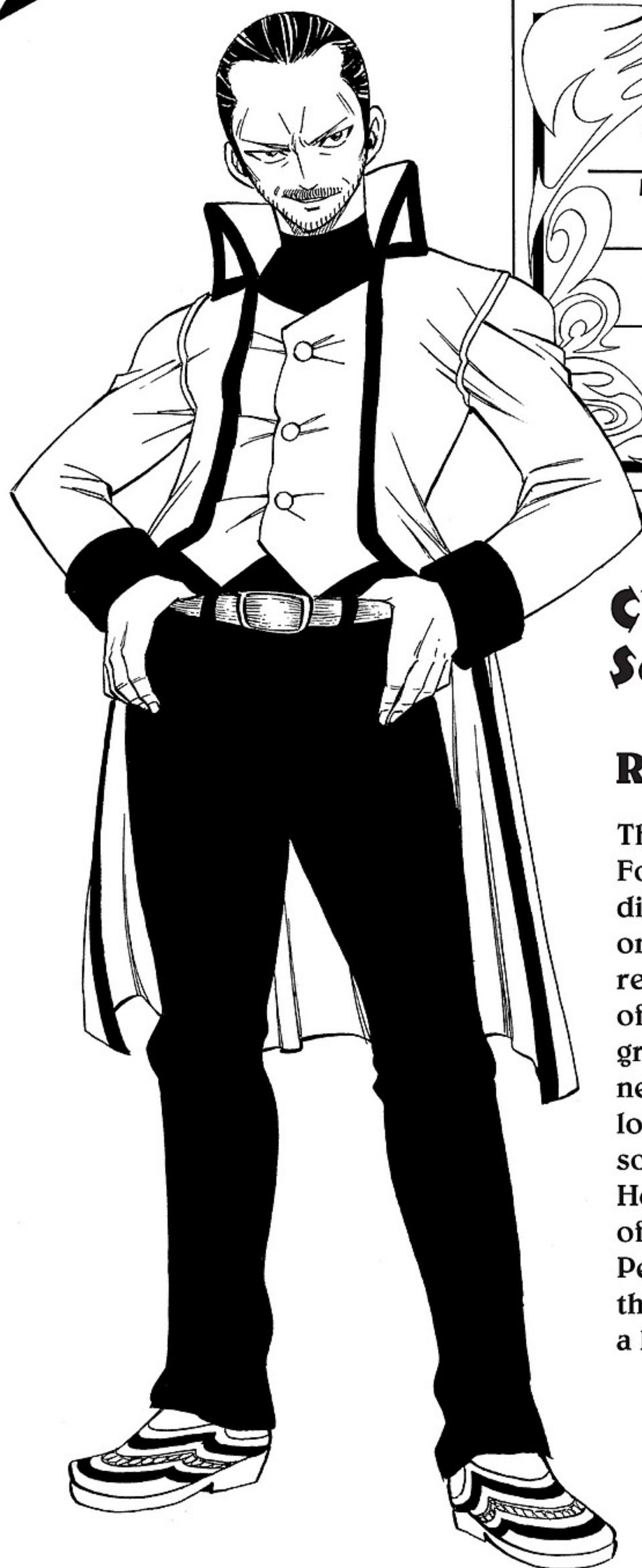


Your
unwavering
trust and
strong bonds
were what
called forth
this miracle.





FAIRY TAIL



FAIRY TAIL	
Name:	Macao Conbolt
Age:	43
Magic:	Purple Flare
Likes:	Romeo
Dislikes:	Loans

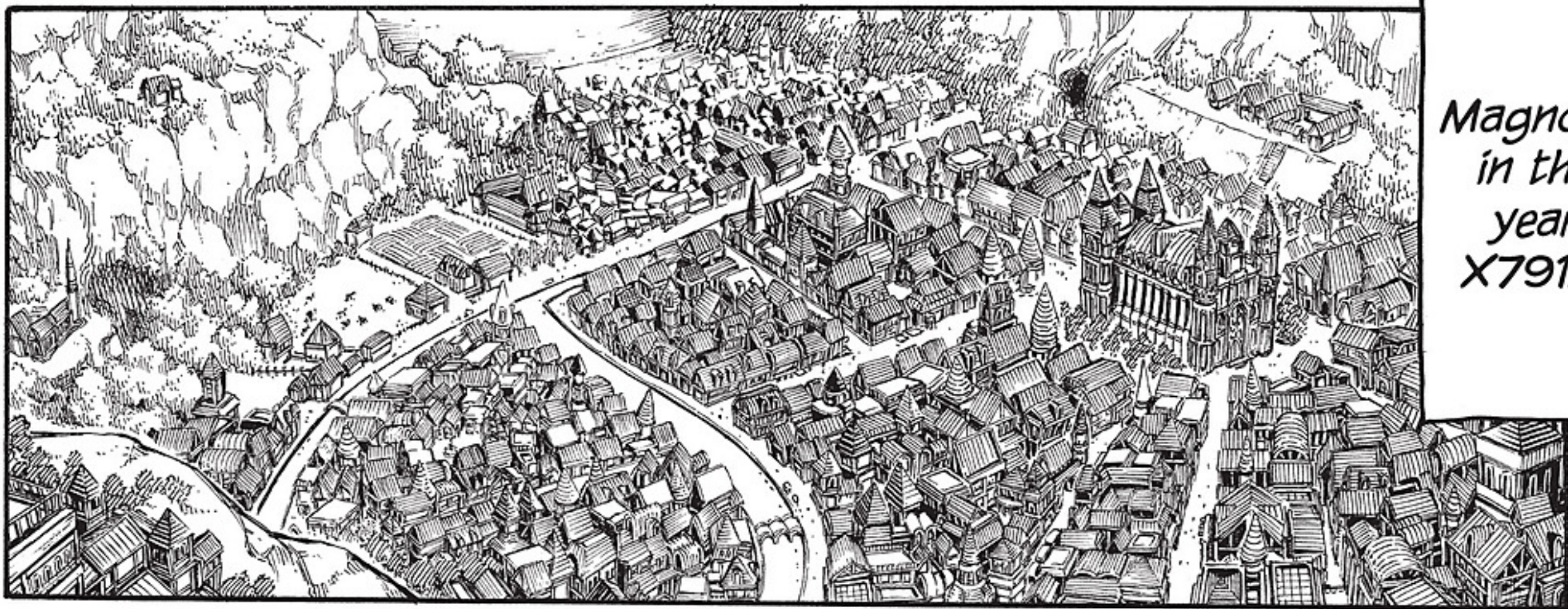


Chapter 256: Seven Empty Years

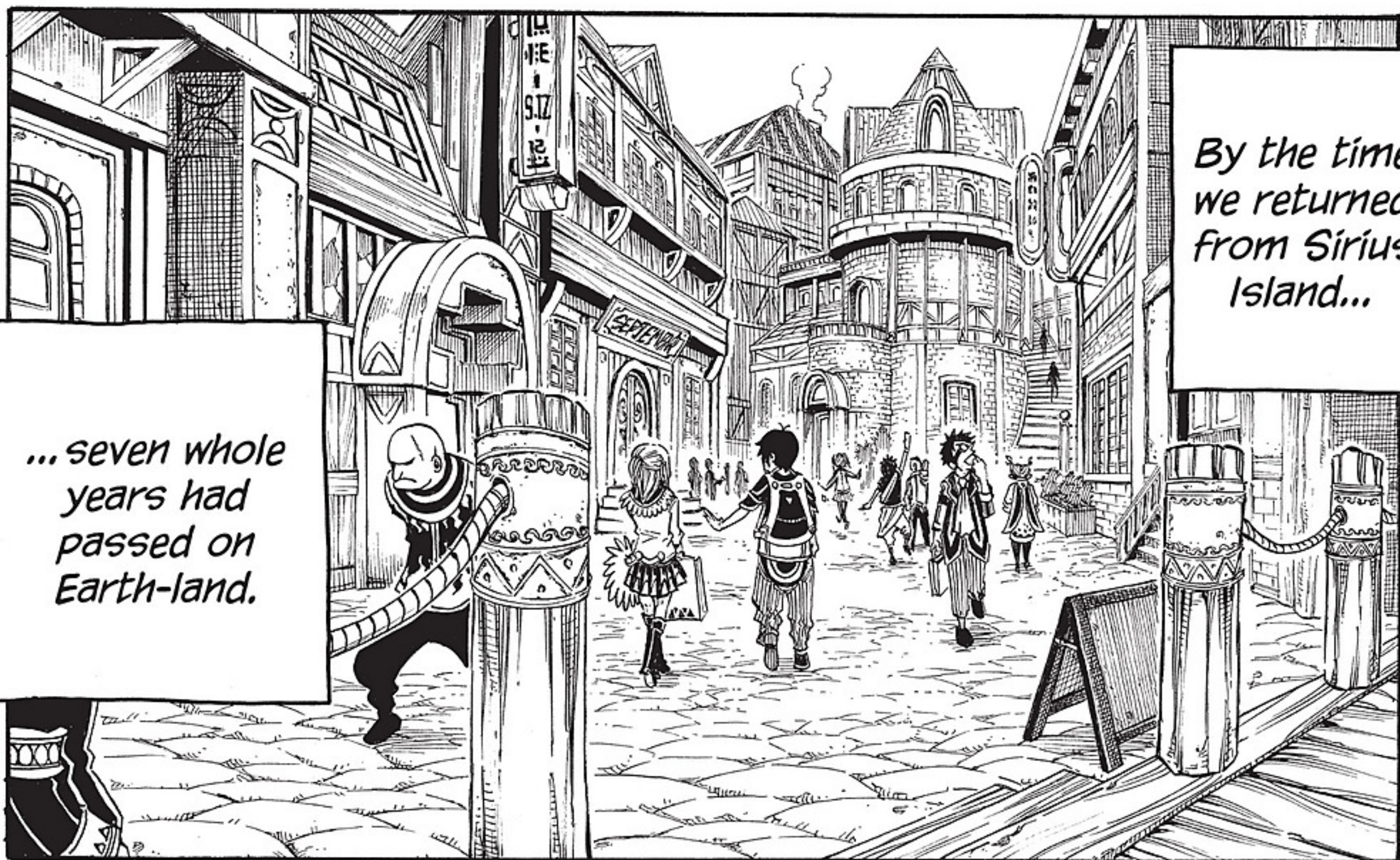
Remarks

The fourth master of Fairy Tail. For the first year after the disappearance of Sirius Island, he was only "acting master," but the Council reluctantly made him the fourth master of the guild. Ever since, he's been gravely worried about how his son has never smiled since Sirius Island was lost, but when the island returned, his son's smile did as well.

He would tell people that he was going off to a meeting, but instead go to Blue Pegasus because of all the beauties there. Since then, Master Bob has taken a liking to him.

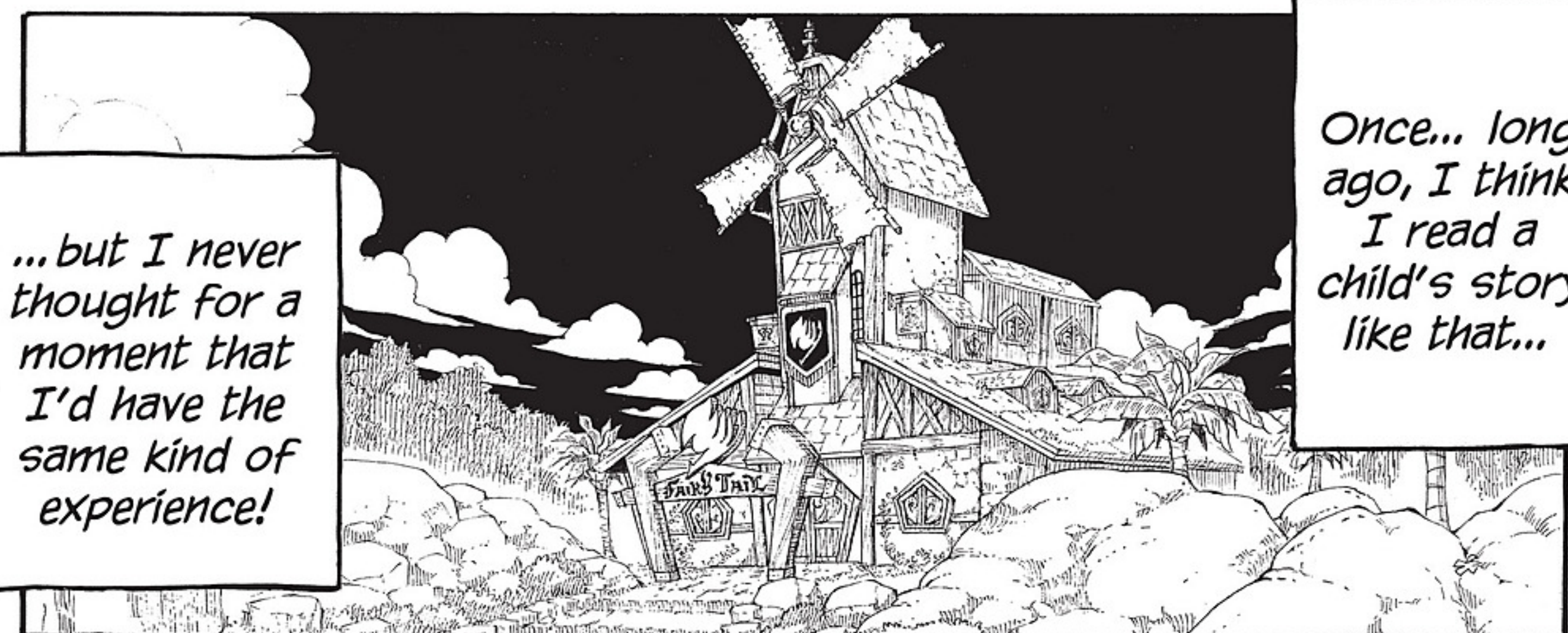


*Magnolia
in the
year
X791...*



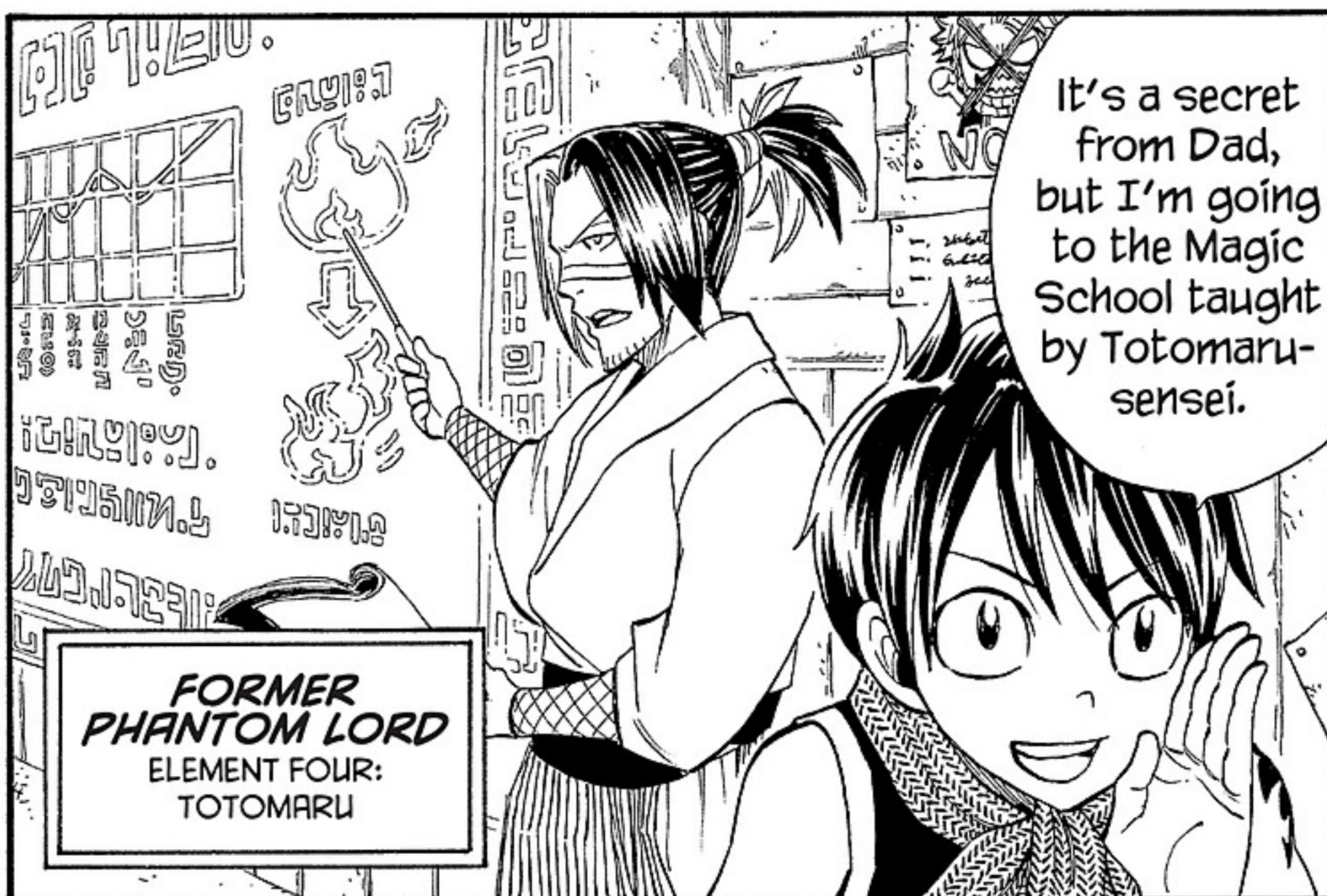
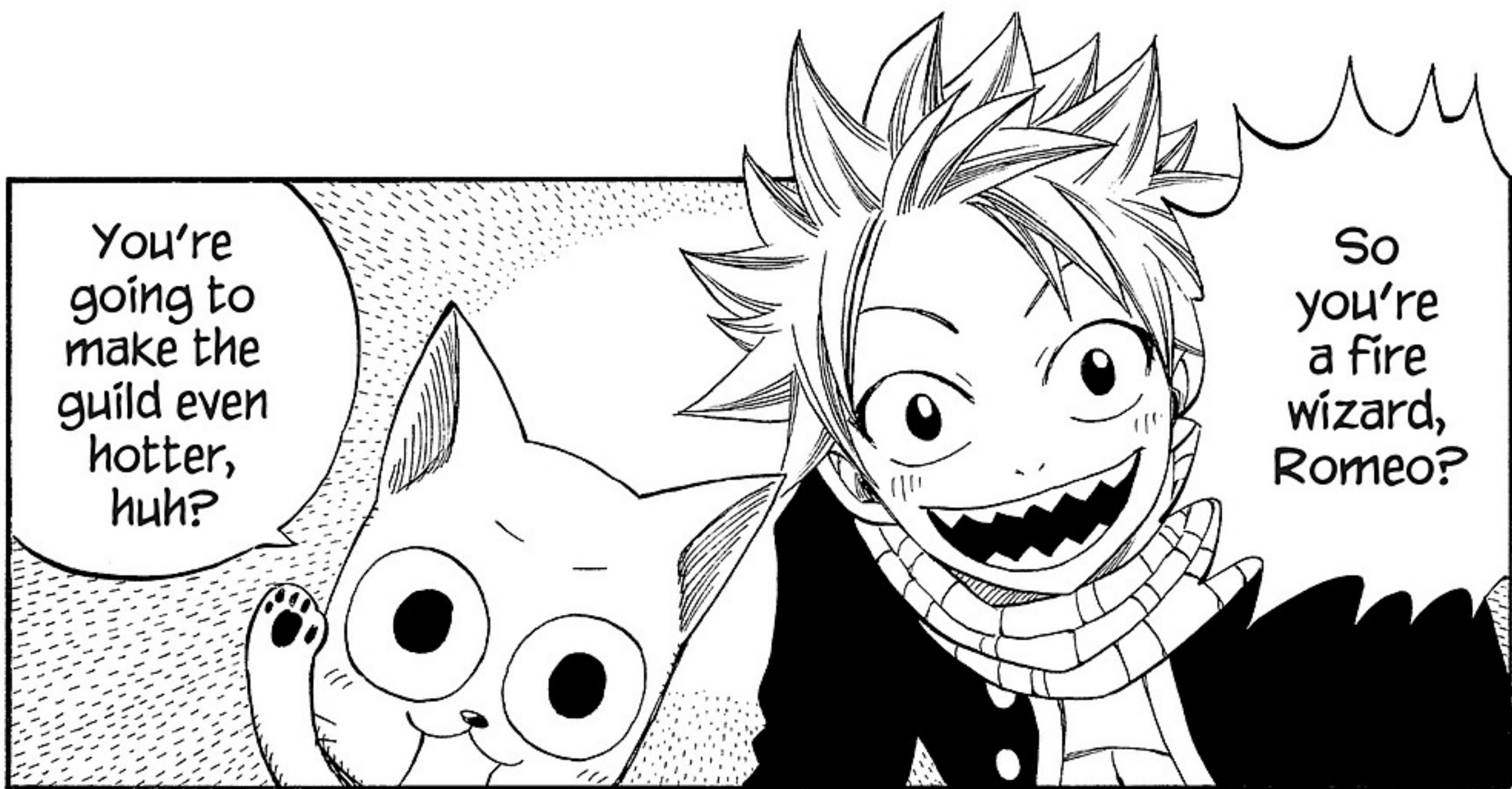
*...seven whole
years had
passed on
Earth-land.*

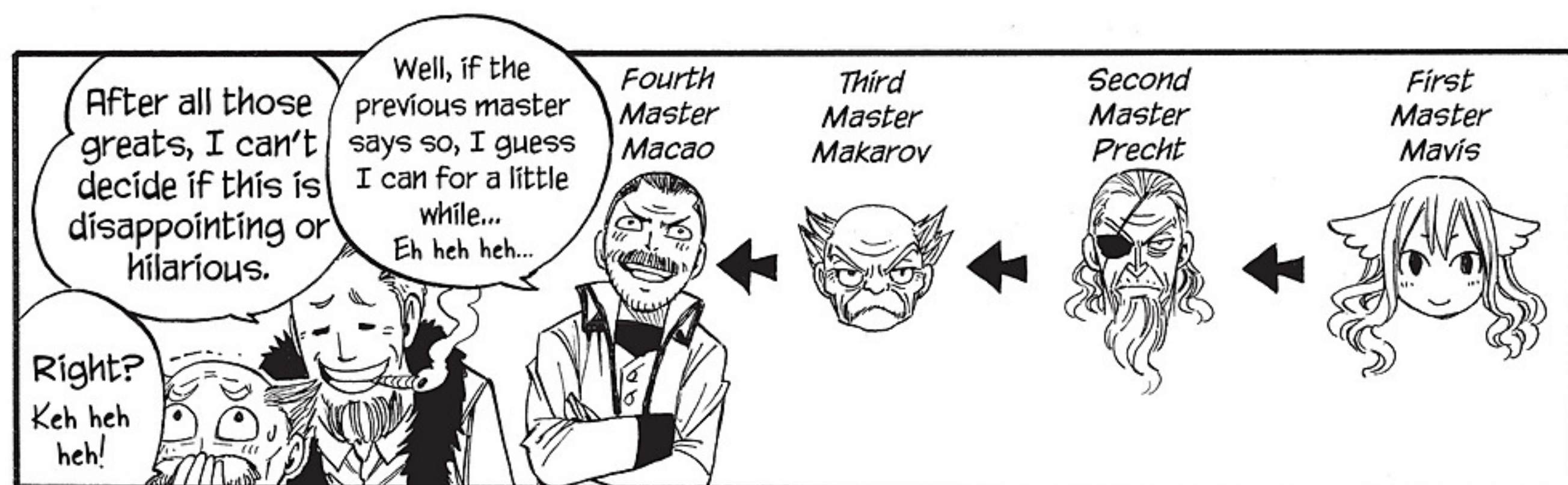
*By the time
we returned
from Sirius
Island...*

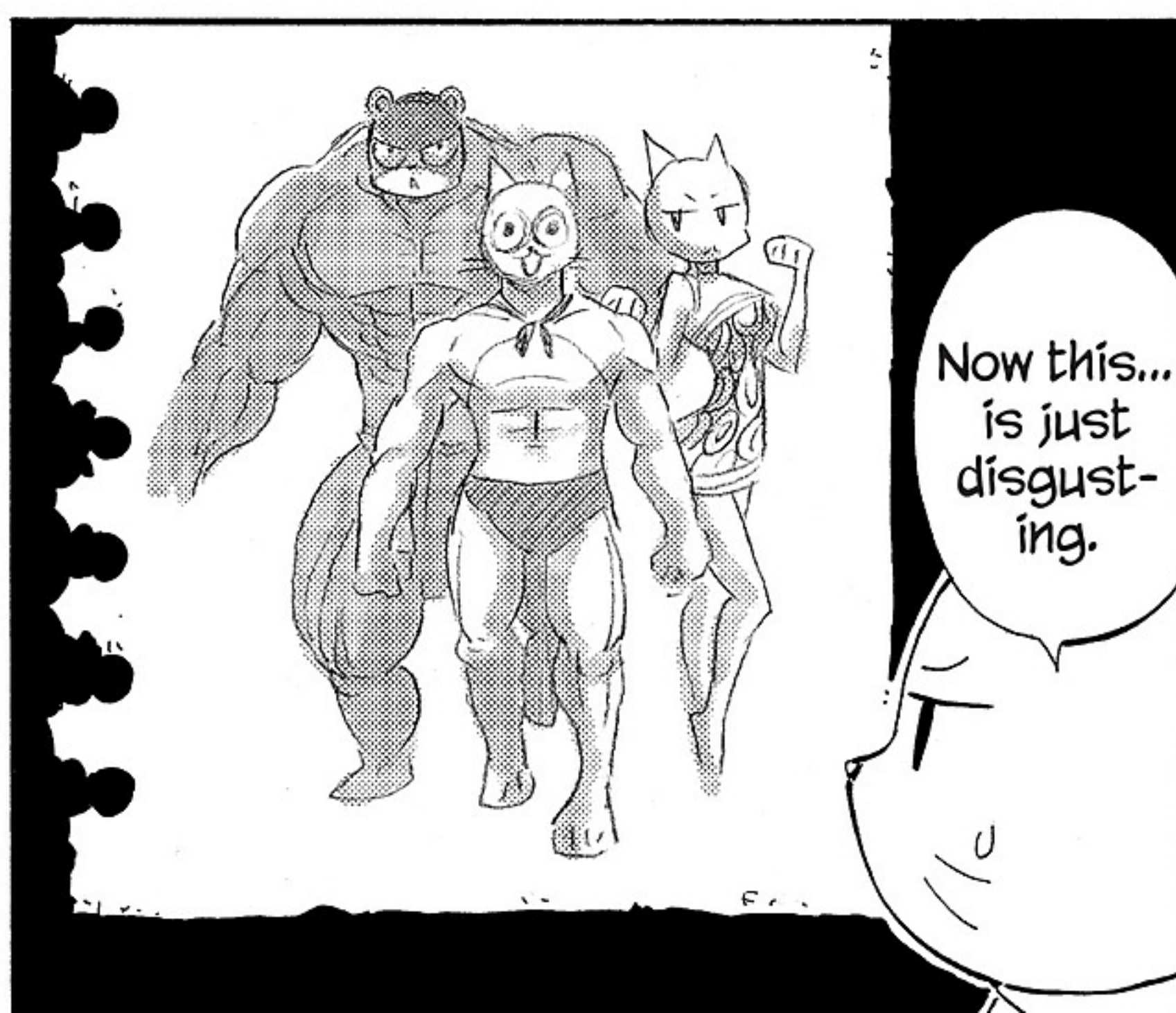
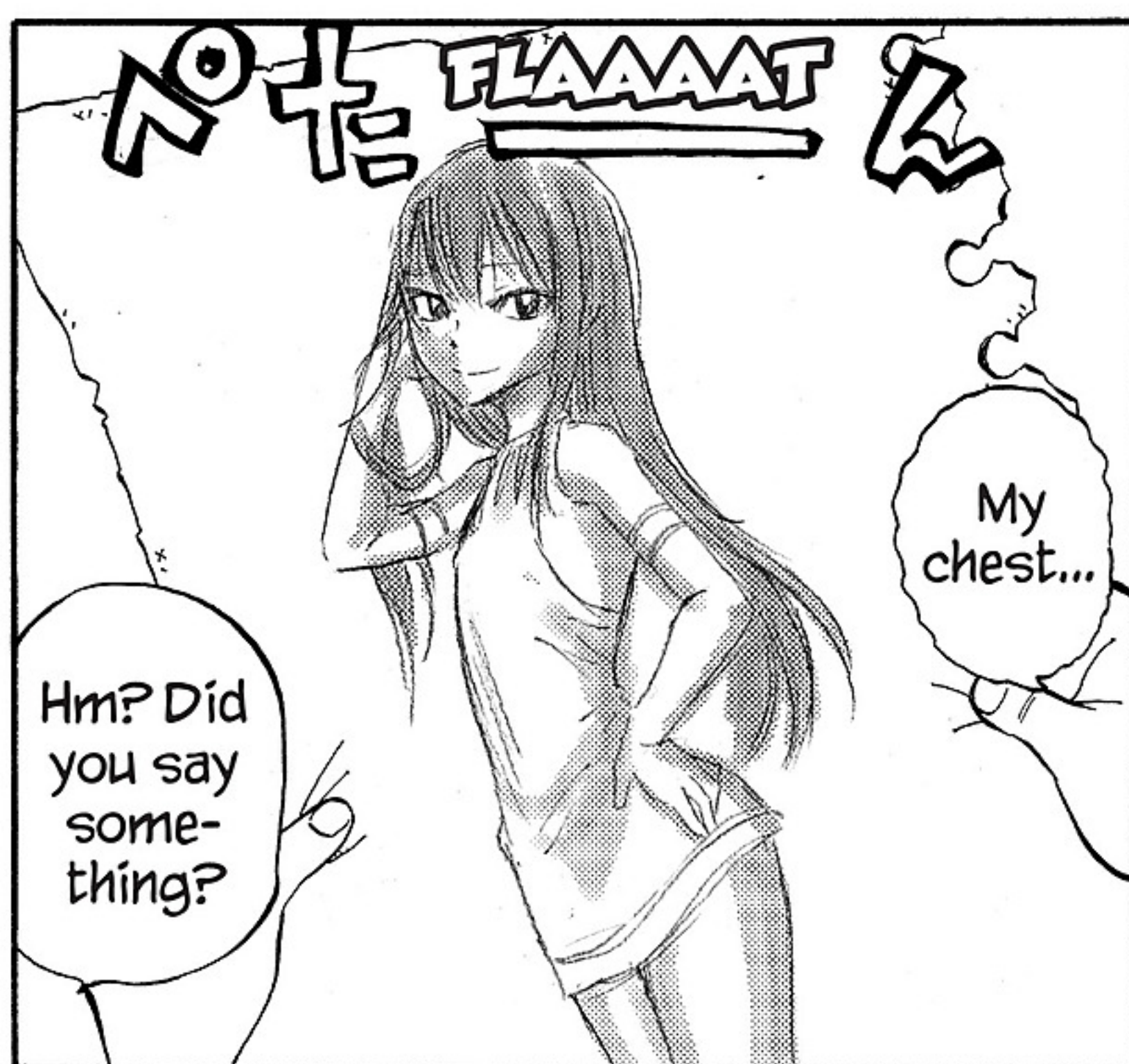
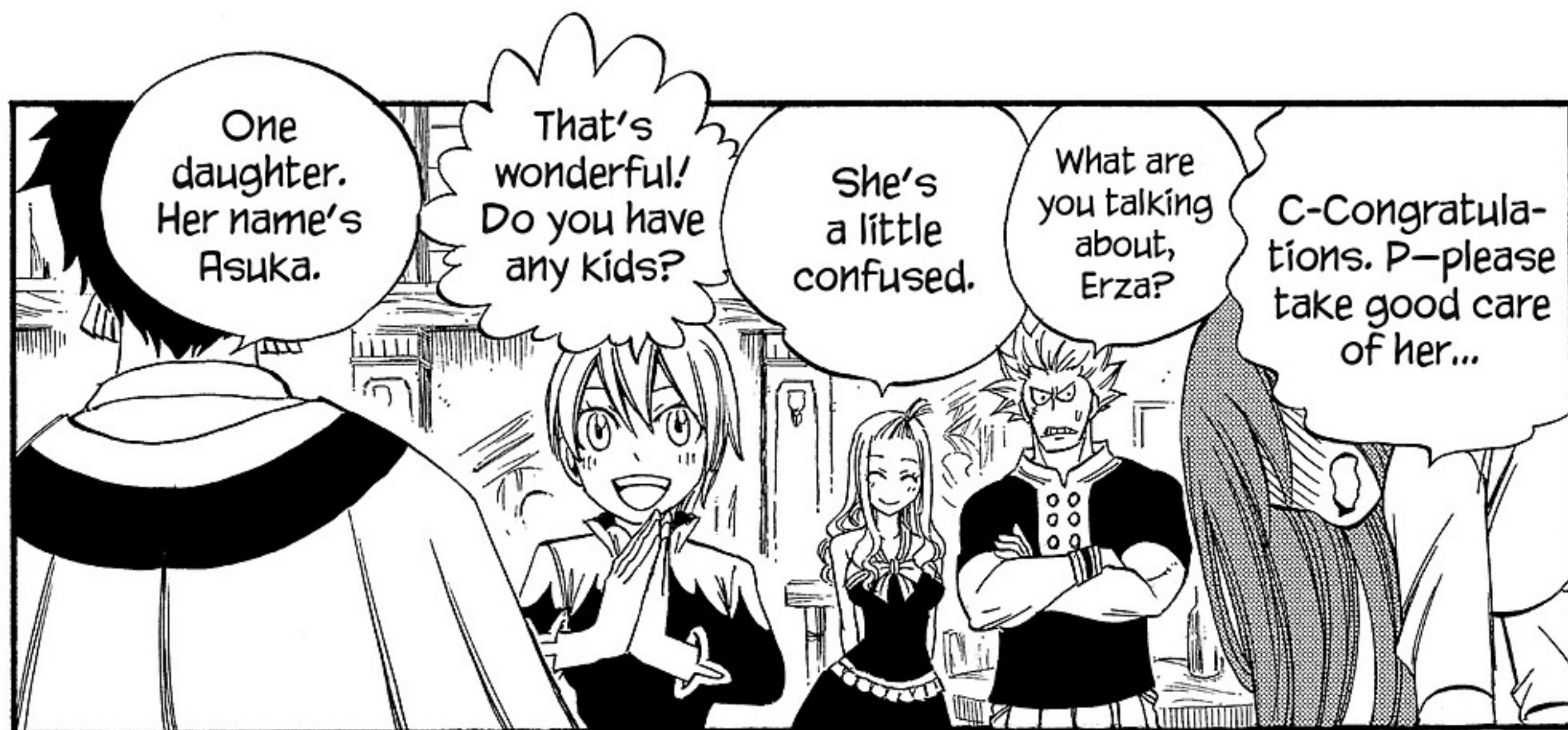


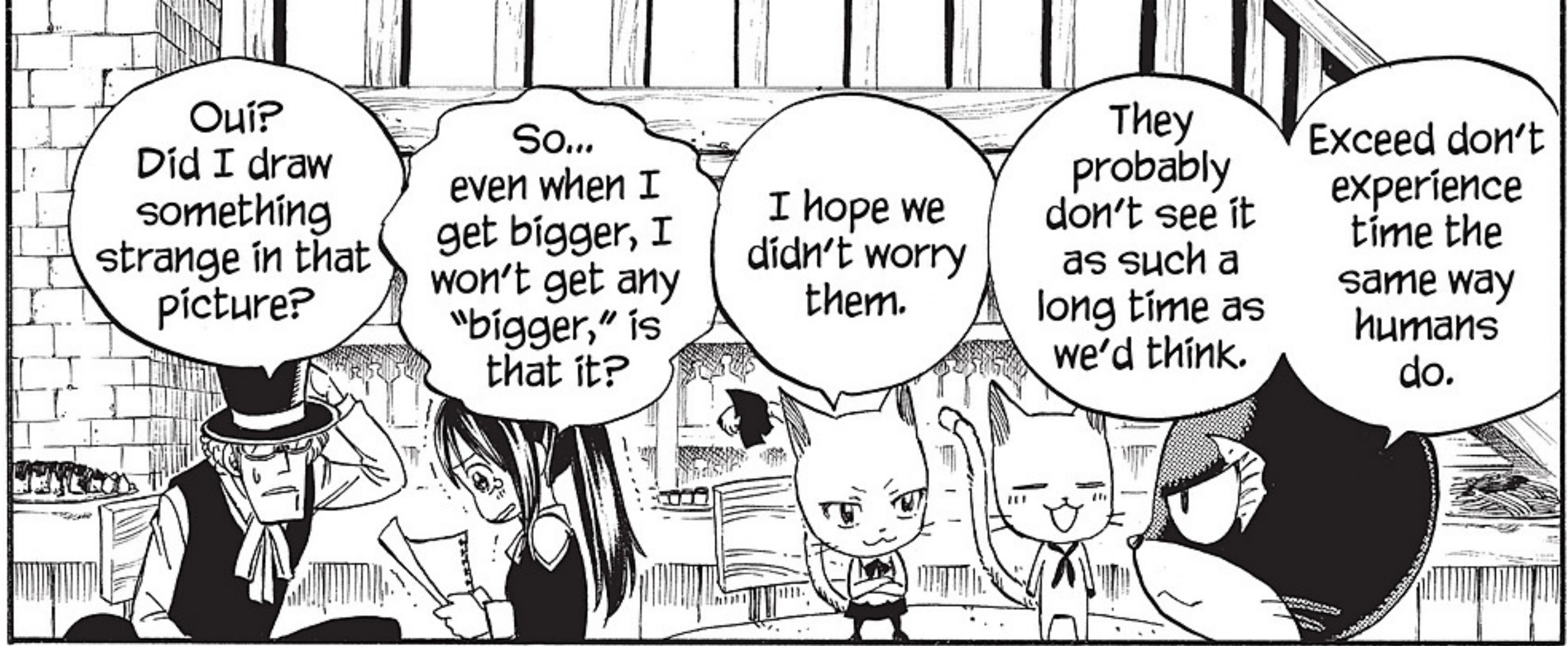
*...but I never
thought for a
moment that
I'd have the
same kind of
experience!*

*Once... long
ago, I think
I read a
child's story
like that...*









Pegasus may be ahead of us now, but we will prove superior in power.

There's nothing to worry about.



LAMIA SCALE
LYON VASTIA

Too bad for you, Lucy-san.

Of course, over the past seven years, we've risen to become Fiore's No. 2 guild.

That was your reason?



LAMIA SCALE
SHERRY BLENDY

No... It isn't Pegasus...

Don't get so worked up.

We'd never allow that!!!!

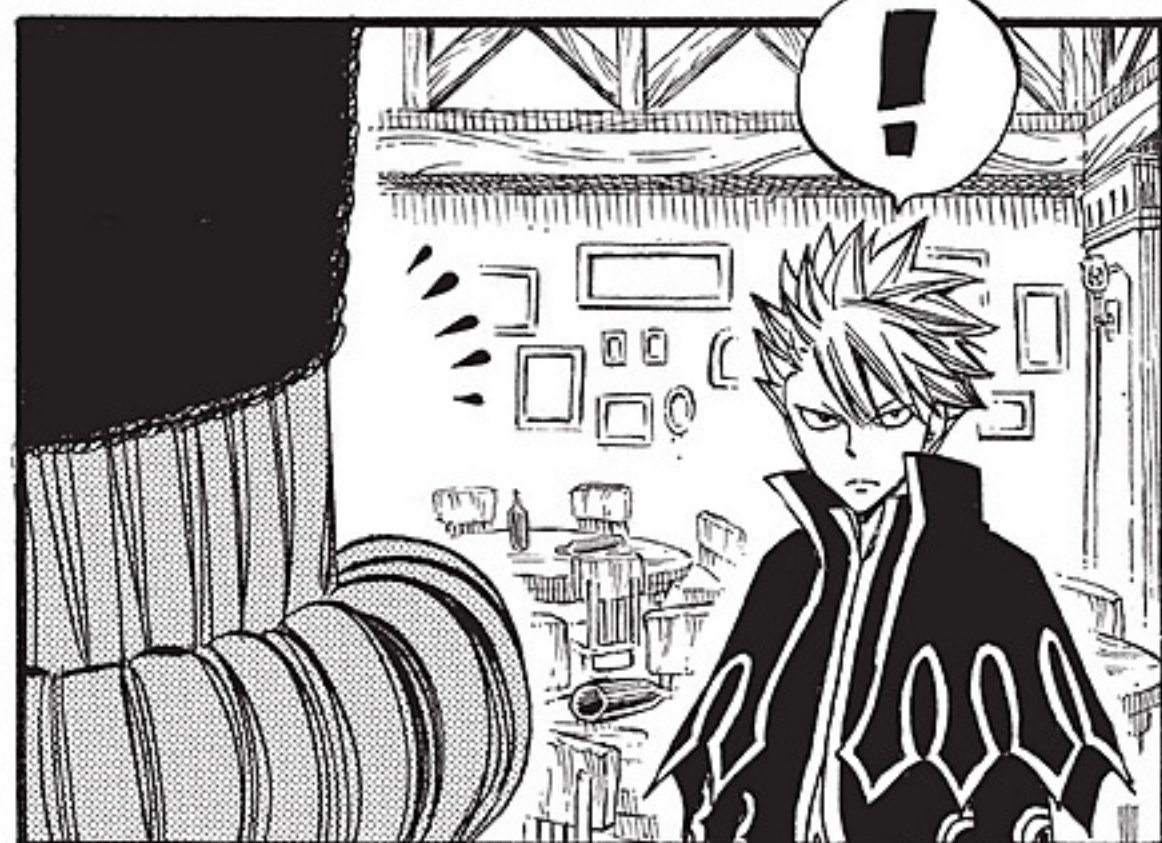
...Wait, does that mean that Pegasus is No. 1?



LAMIA SCALE
YÜKA



LAMIA SCALE
TOBY

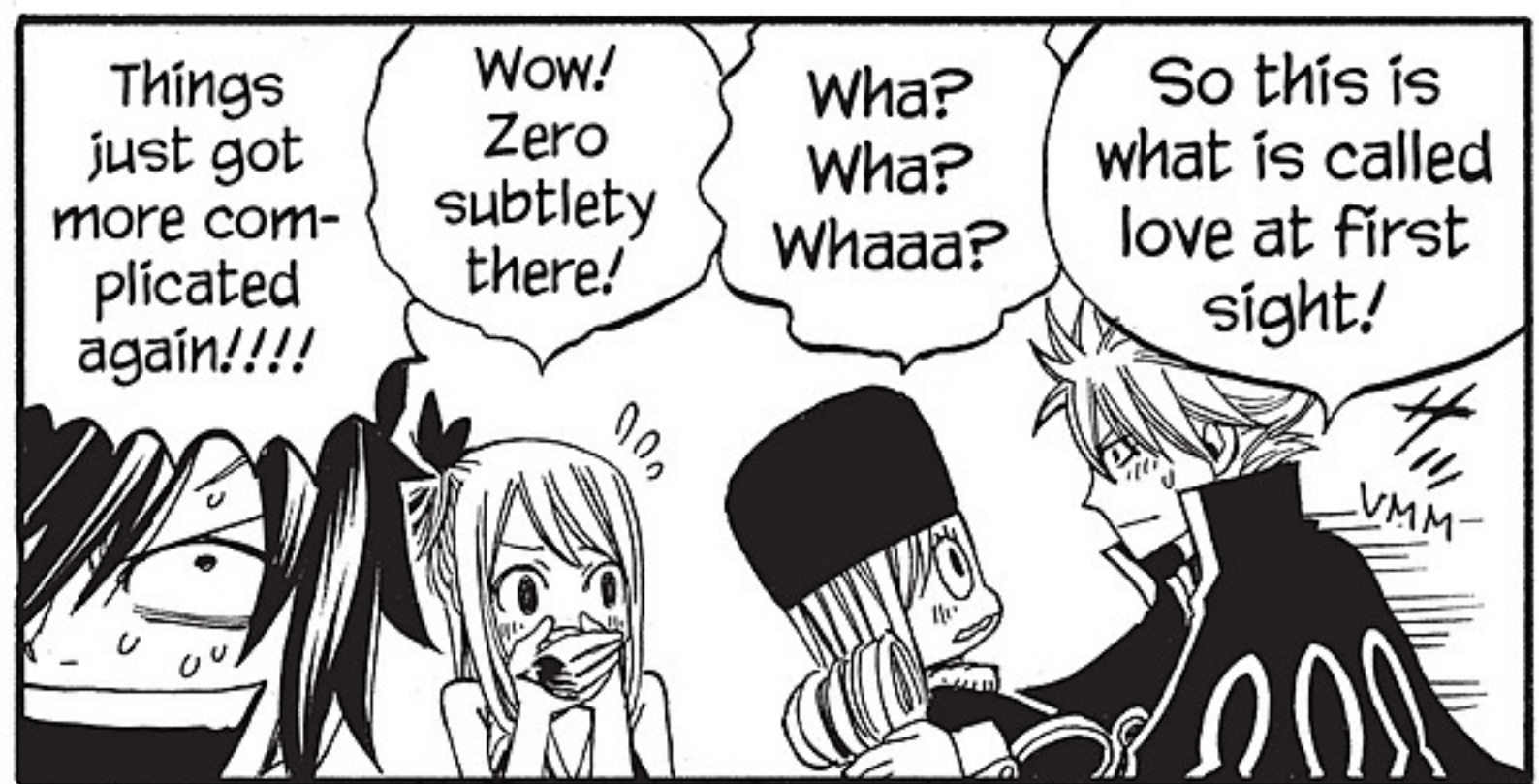
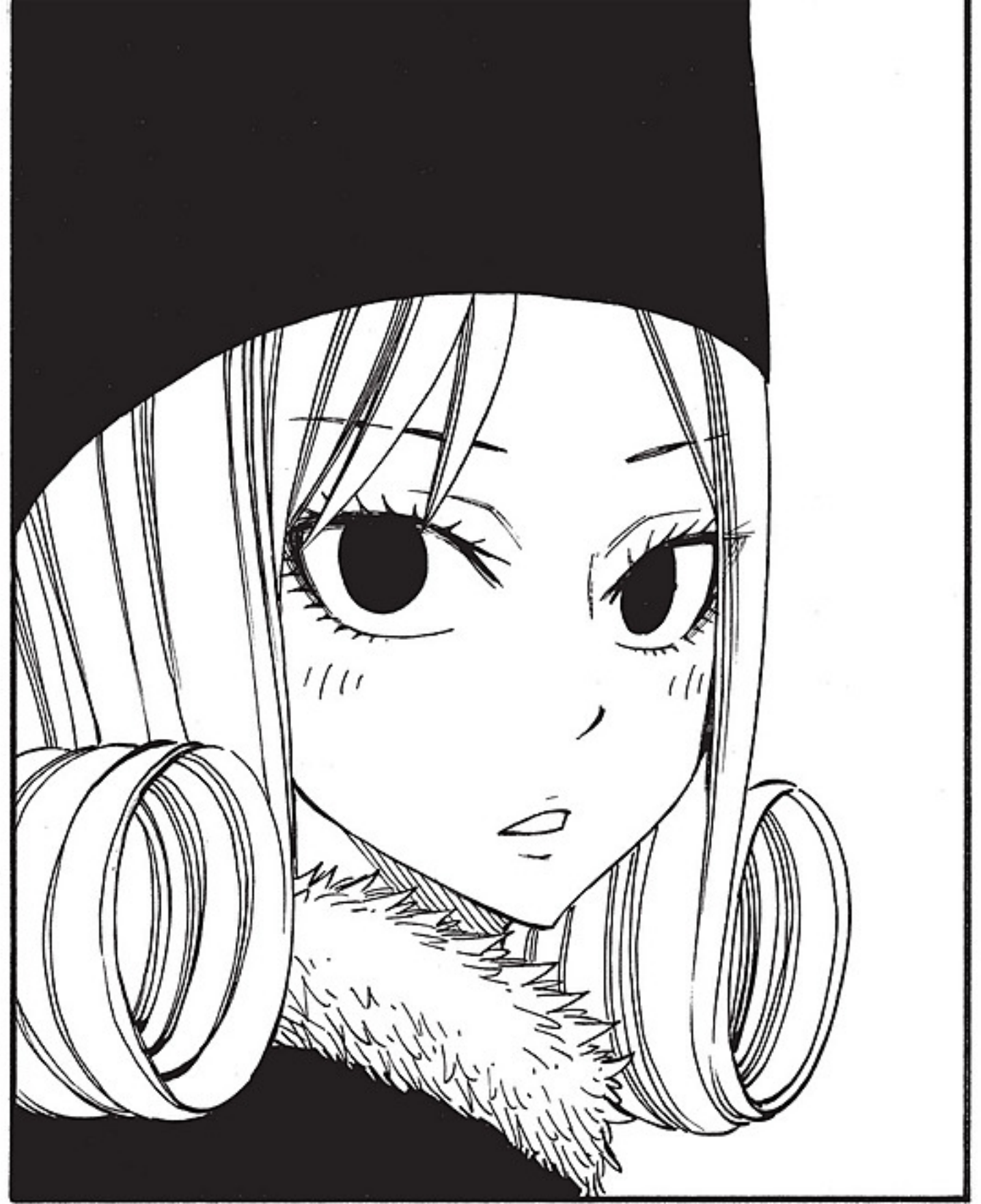
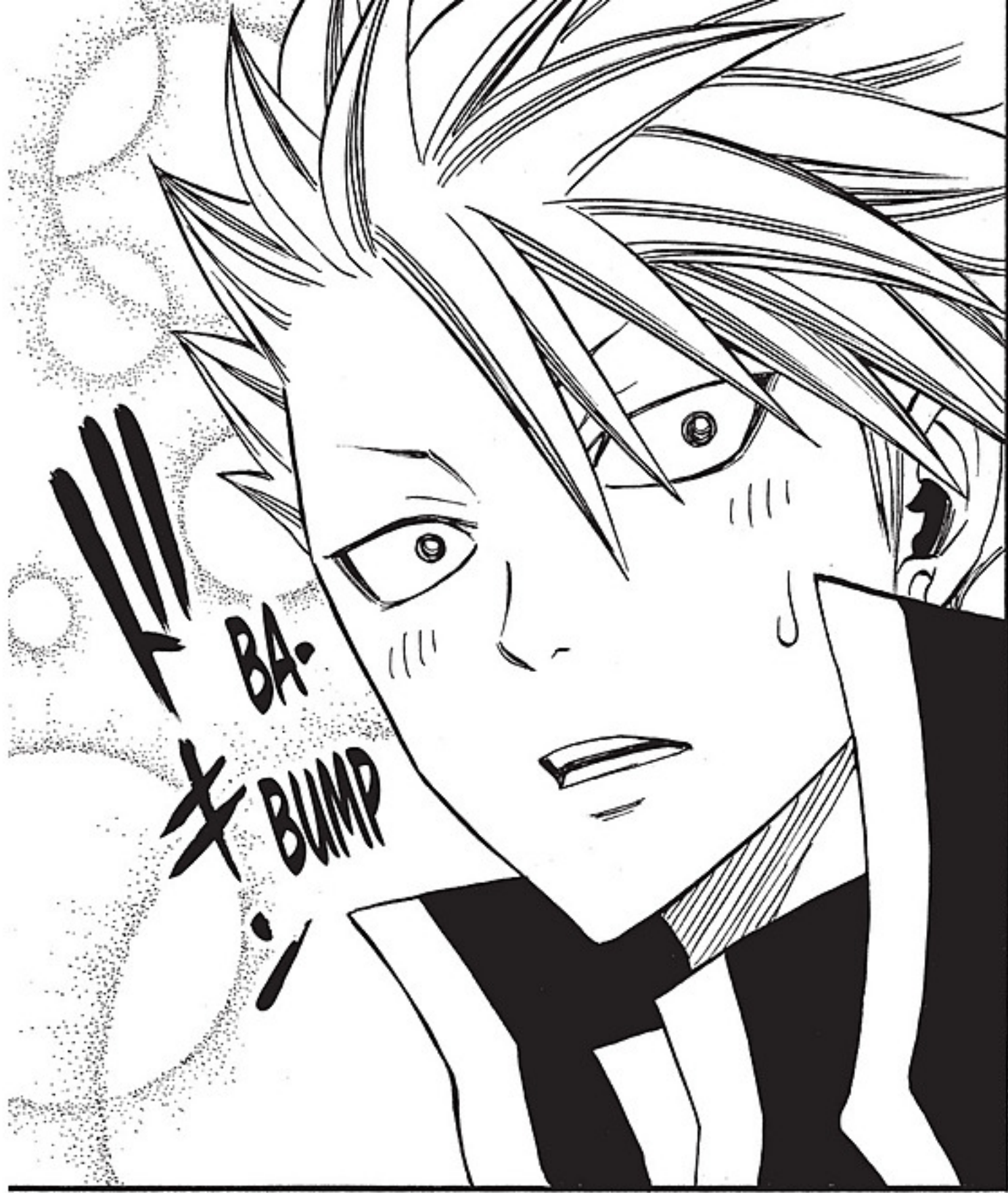


Ooon.

Yes... Why don't we move on to other subjects? Of course, we are relieved that you are all well.

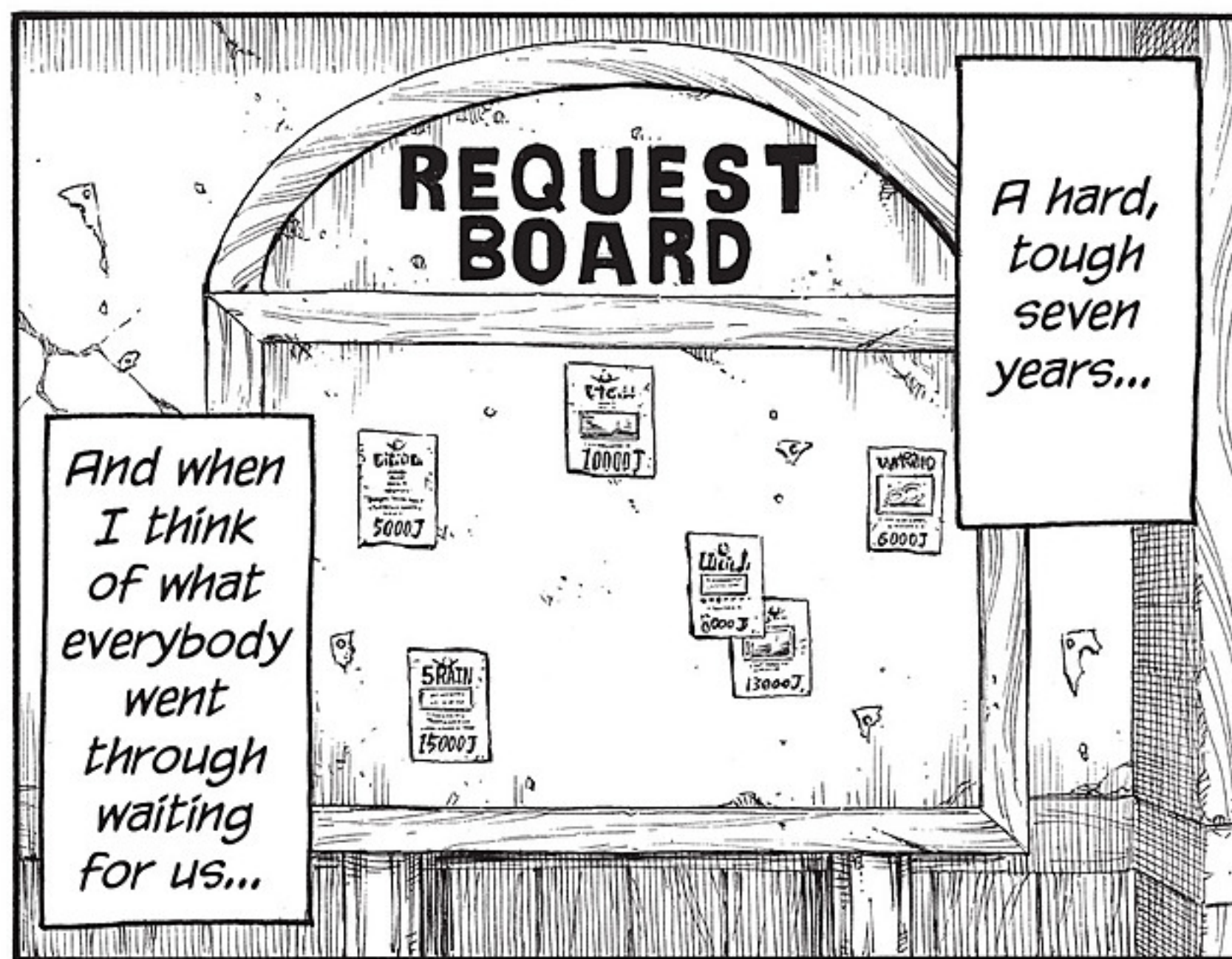


LAMIA SCALE
JURA NEEKIS



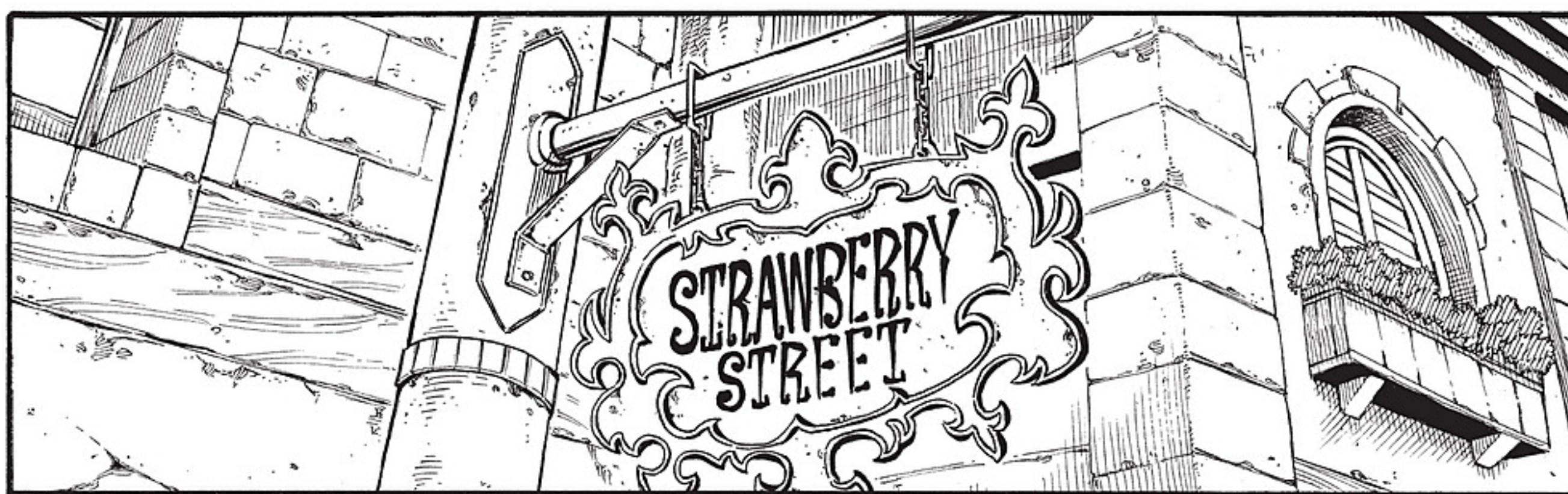


...it
makes
my
heart
ache.



And when
I think
of what
everybody
went
through
waiting
for us...

A hard,
tough
seven
years...



PUUUN!

It seems like
forever since
I saw the
inside of my
place, huh?

It's Lucy-
chan!

Isn't that
...

Hey!

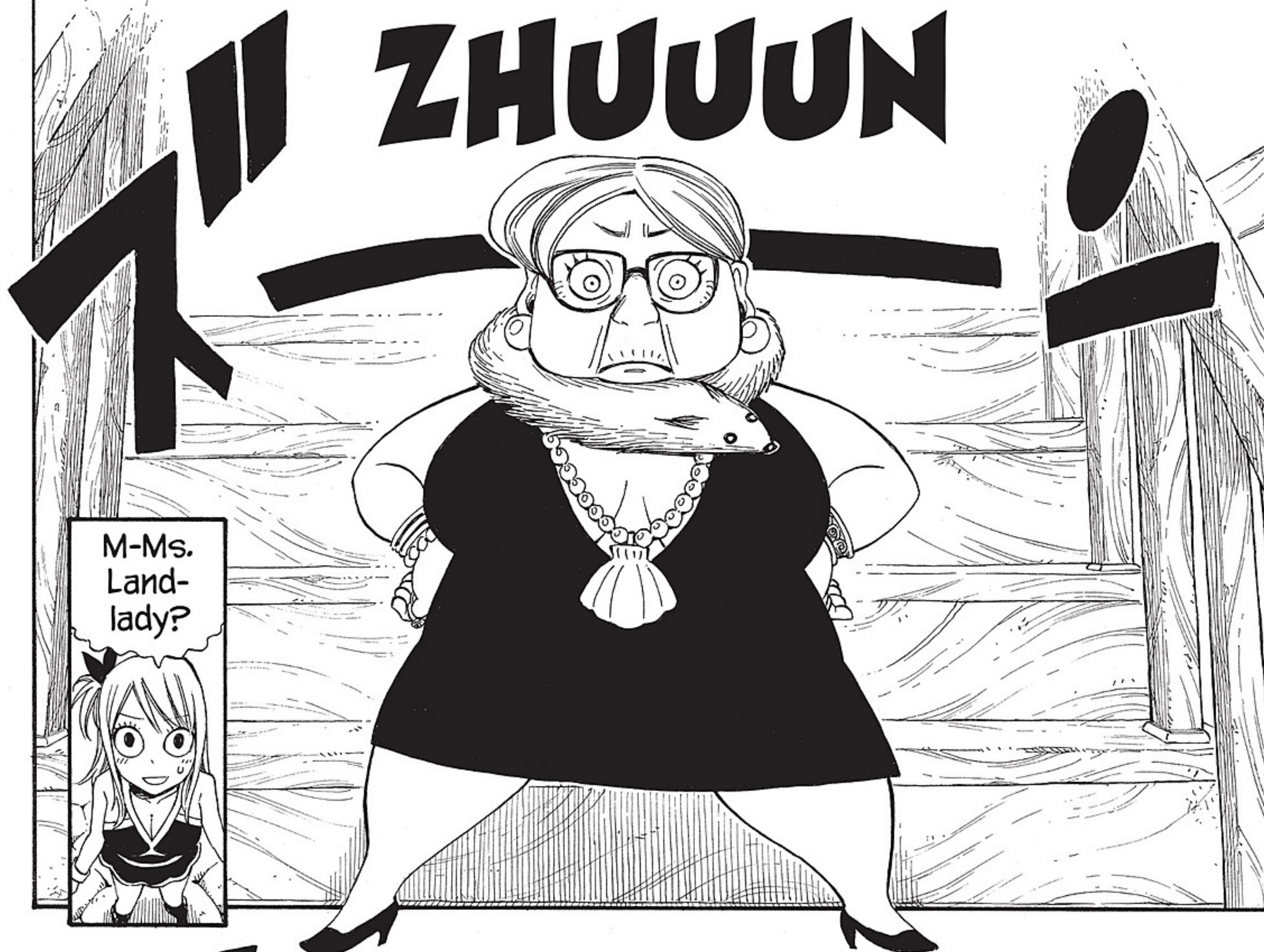


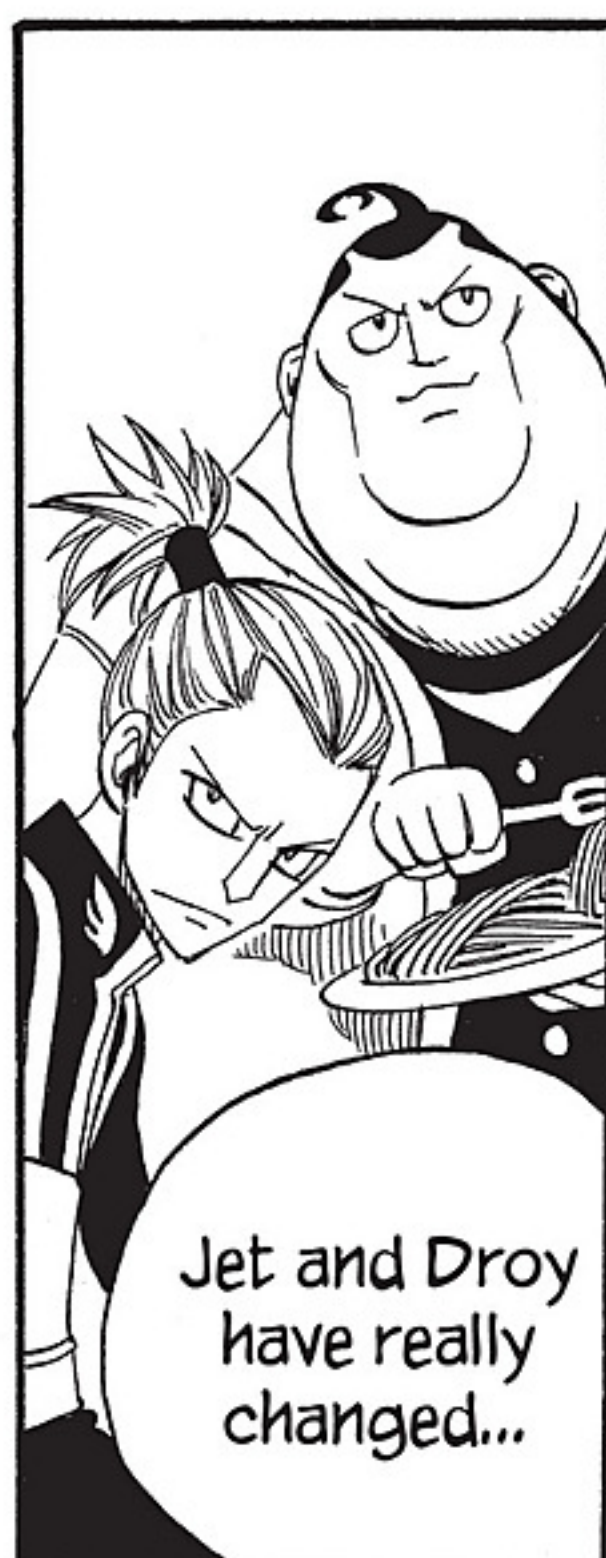
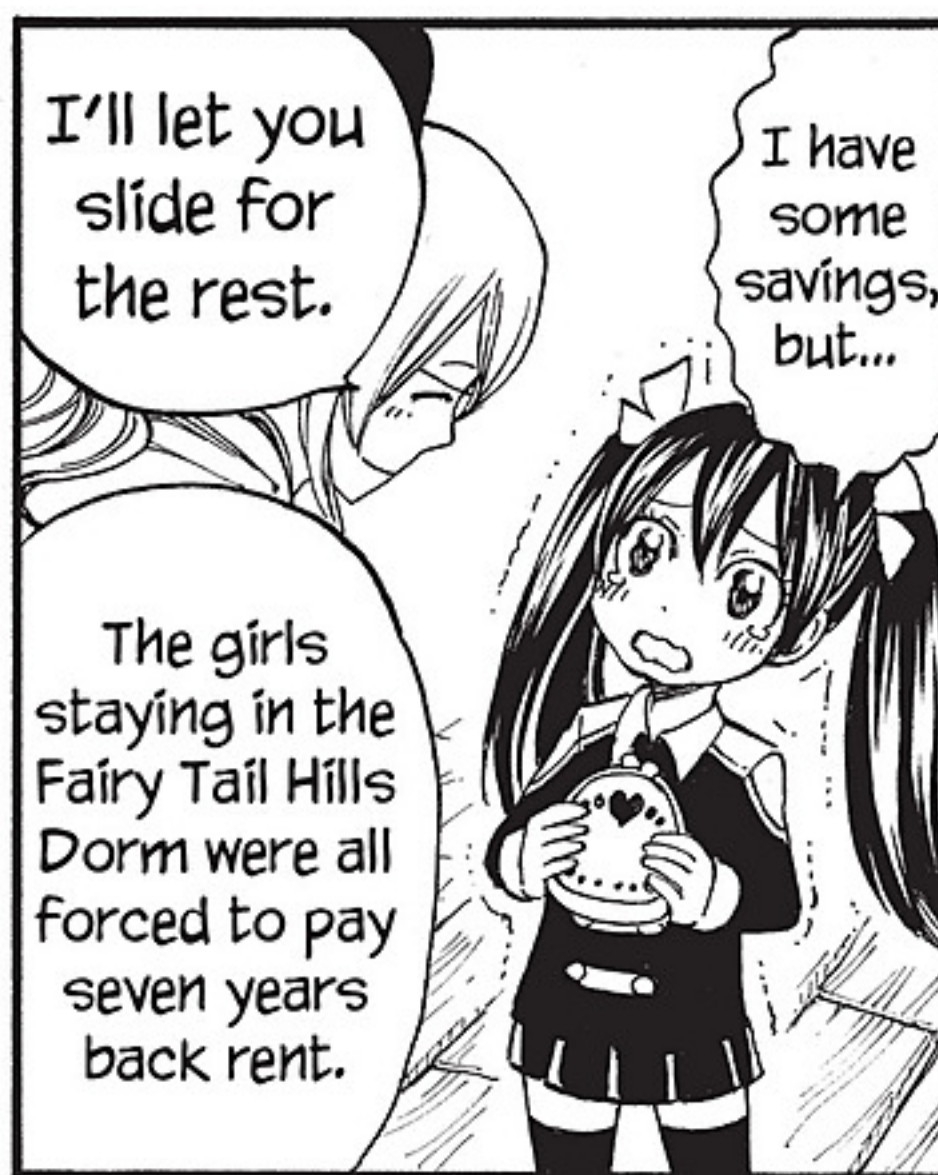
PUUUN!

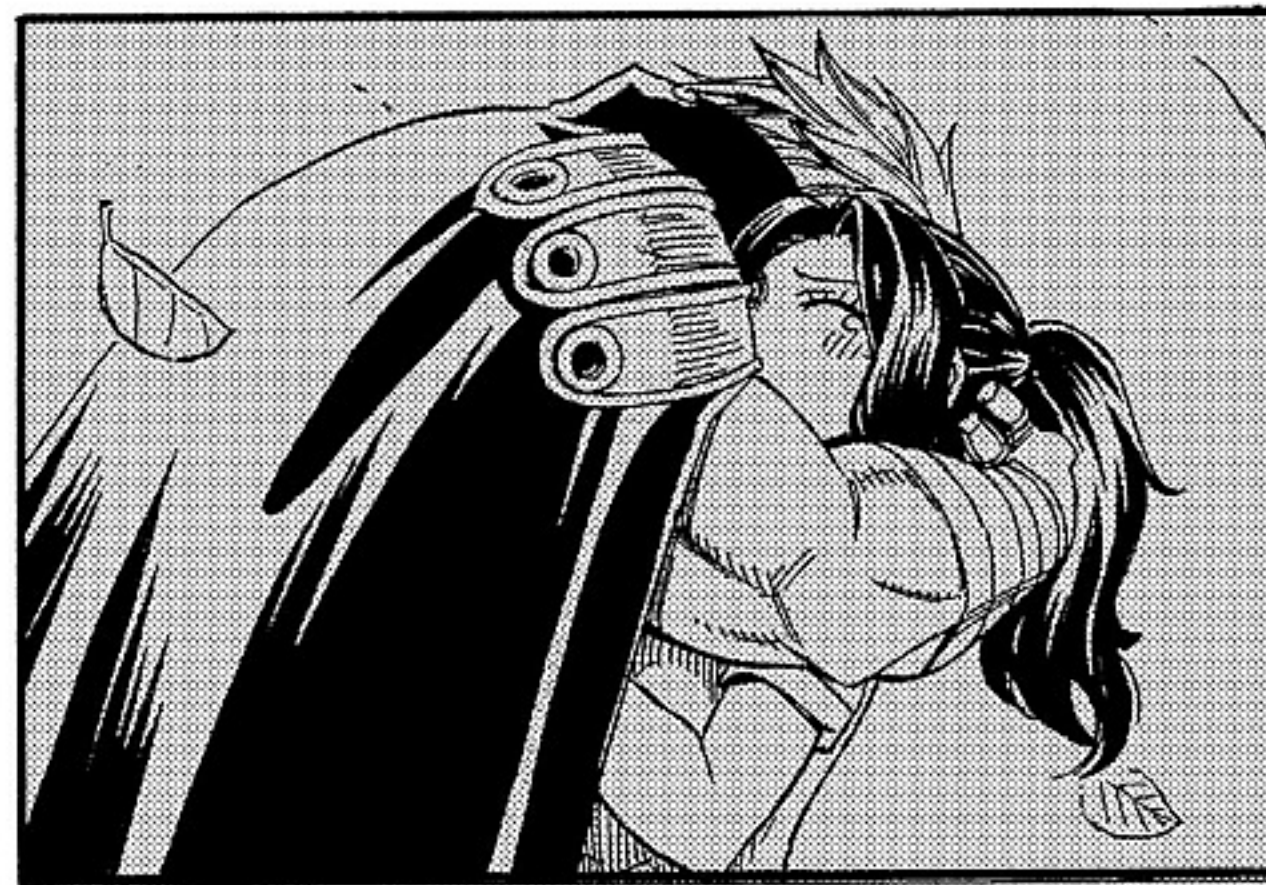
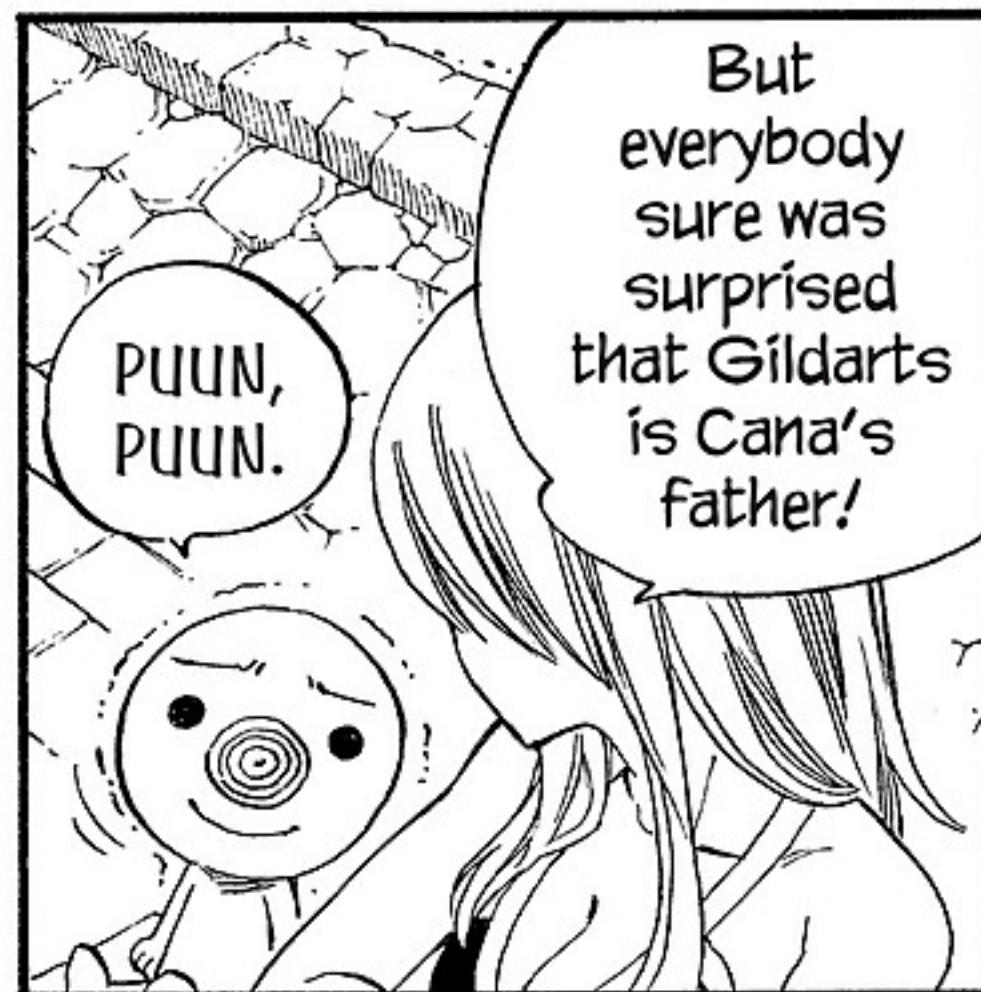
Whoa... I
figured it'd
be this way,
but I'm
beat...

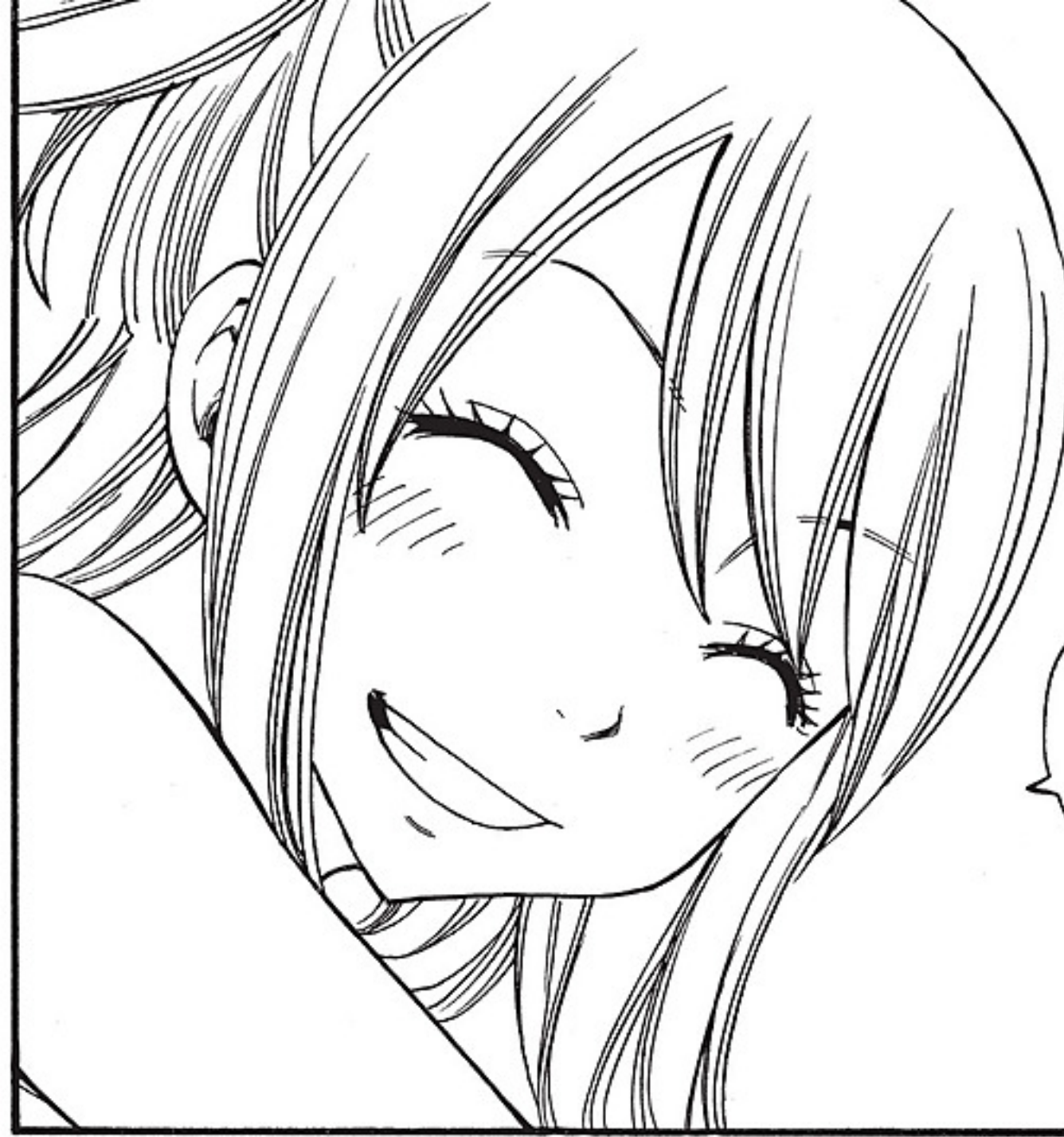
PLOD
とほ
とほ
PLOD

It was a
three-day
festival of
noise at the
guild.







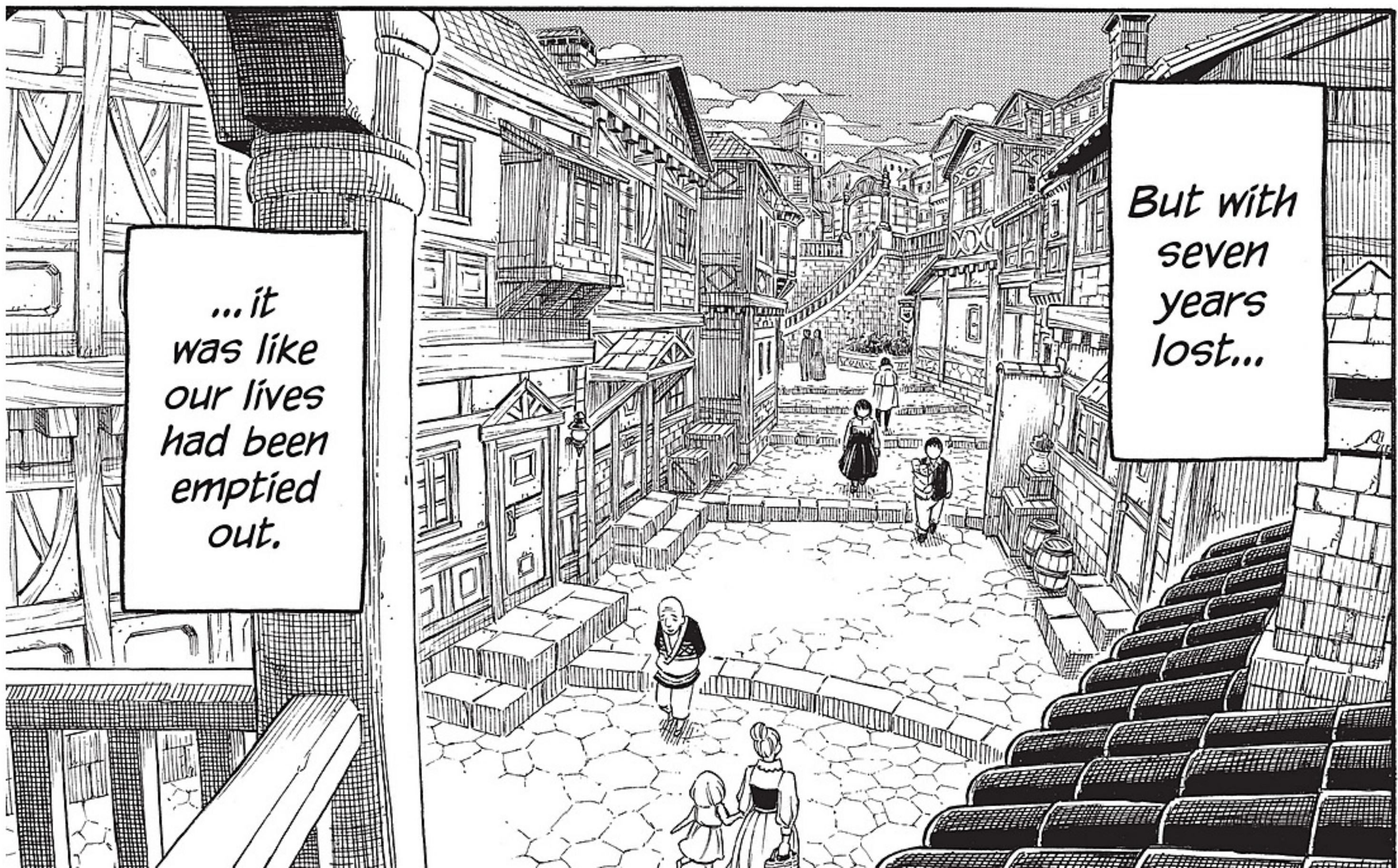


Imagine that!
I'm thinking
that I *want* to
visit Father.

That's a
first, for
me.

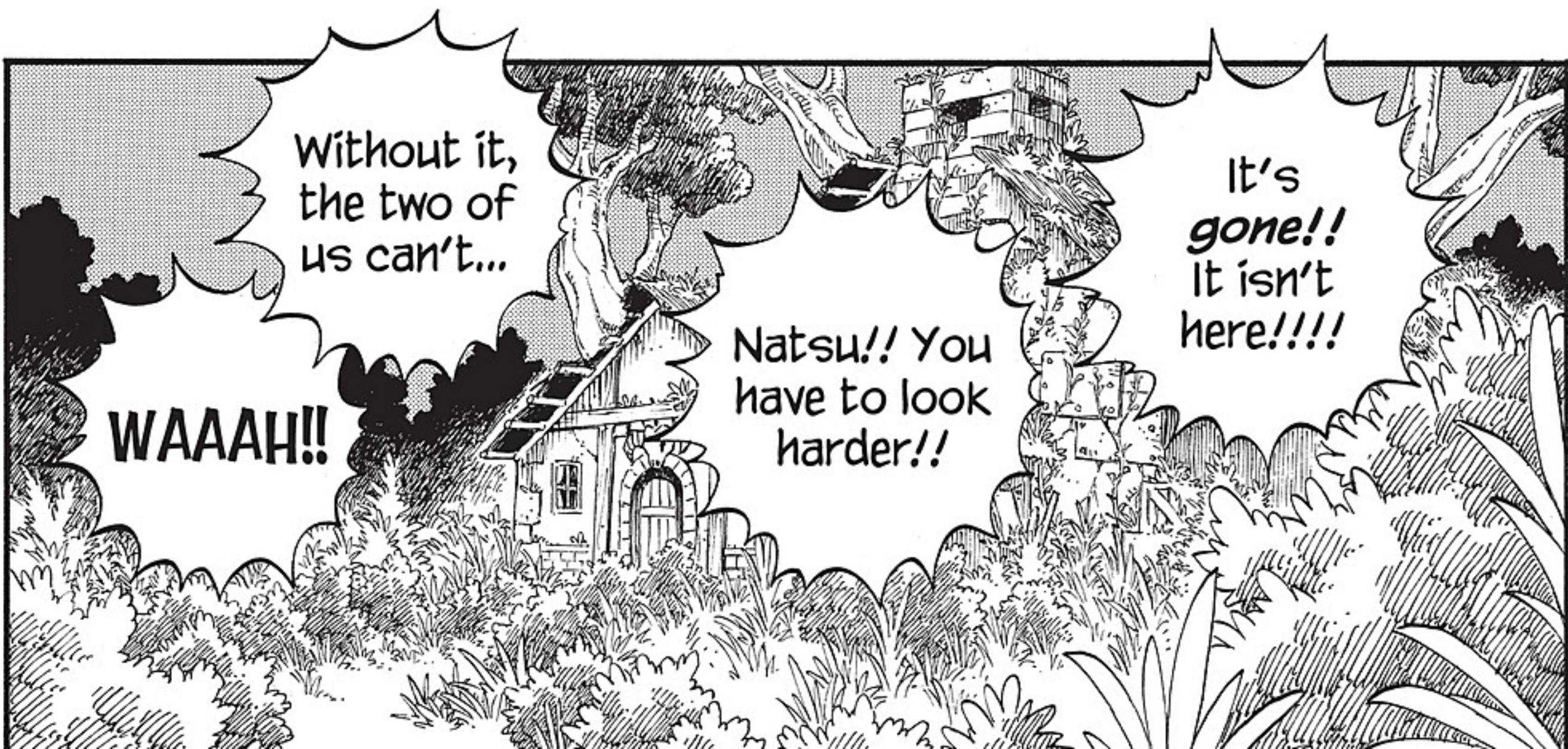
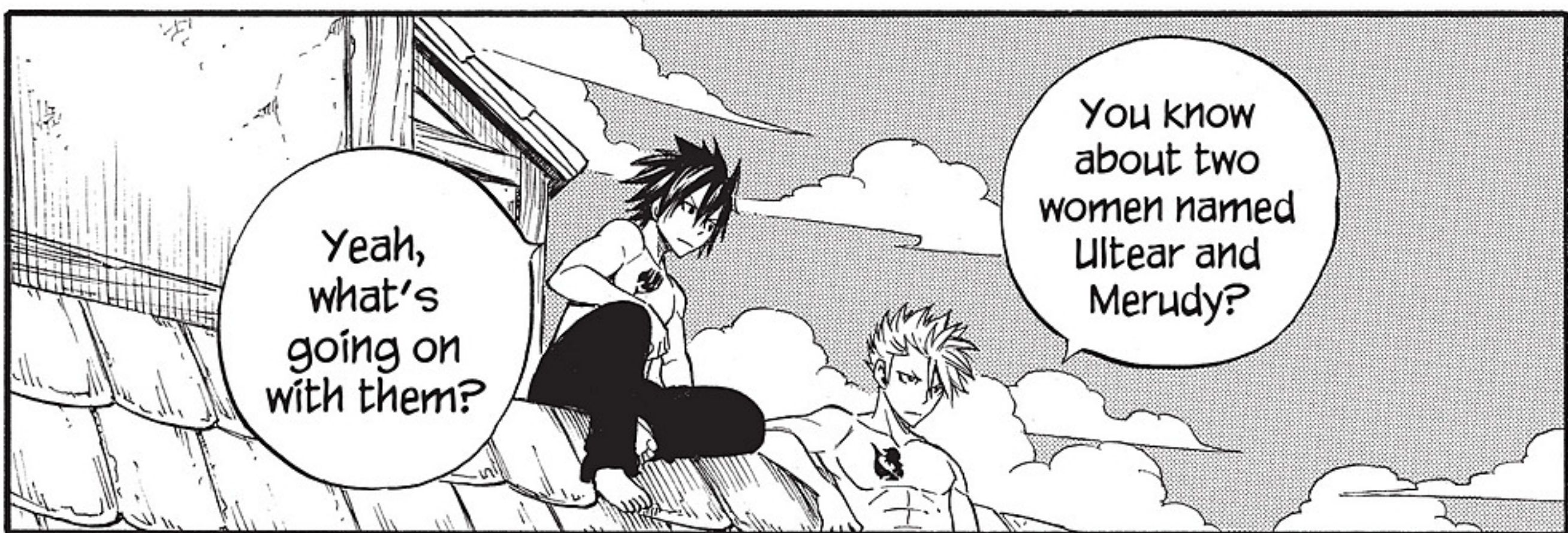
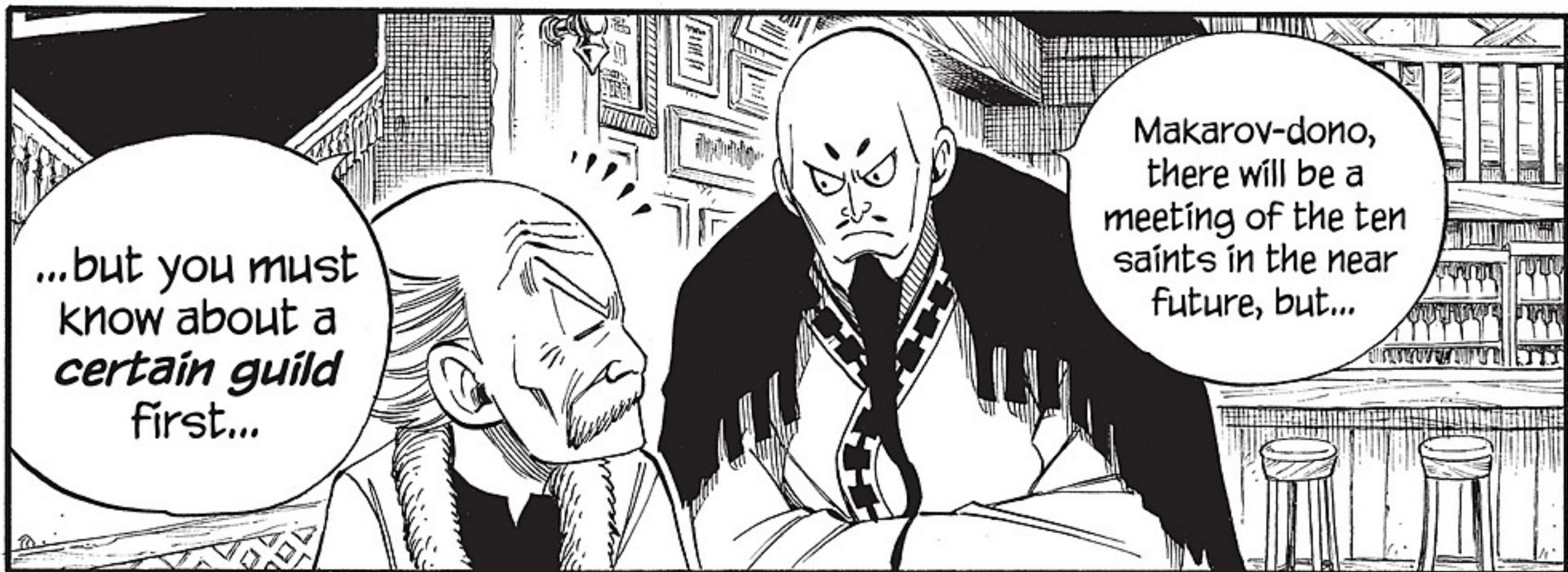
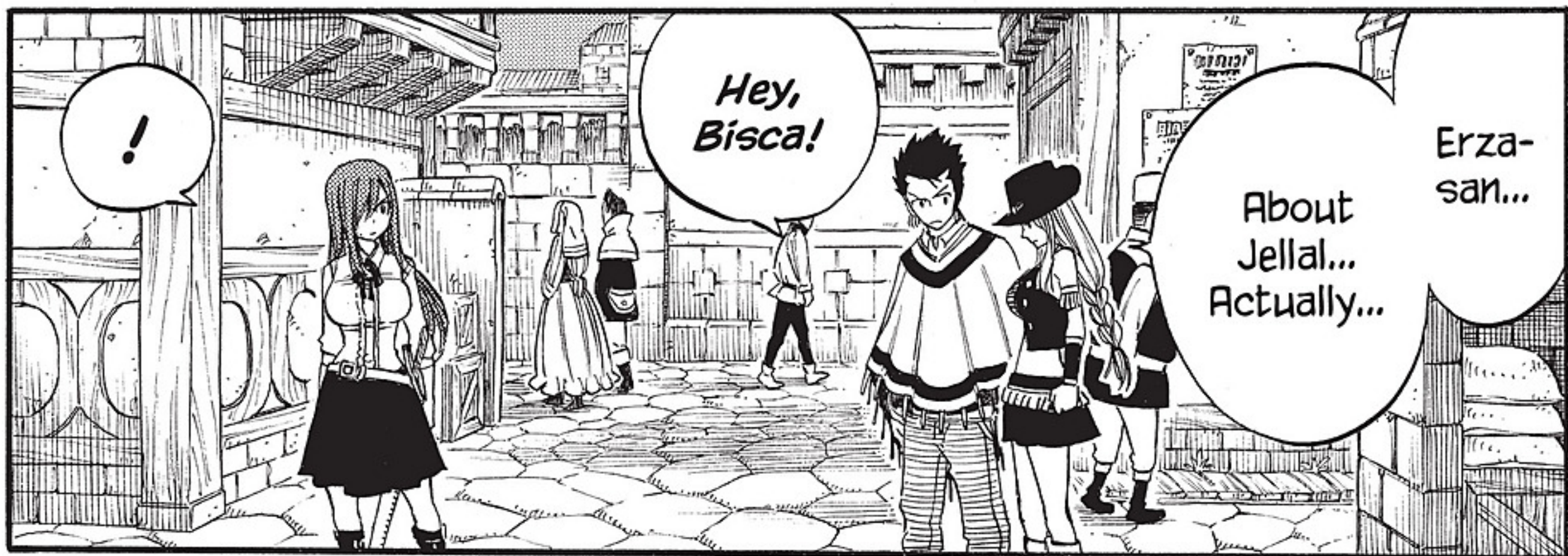


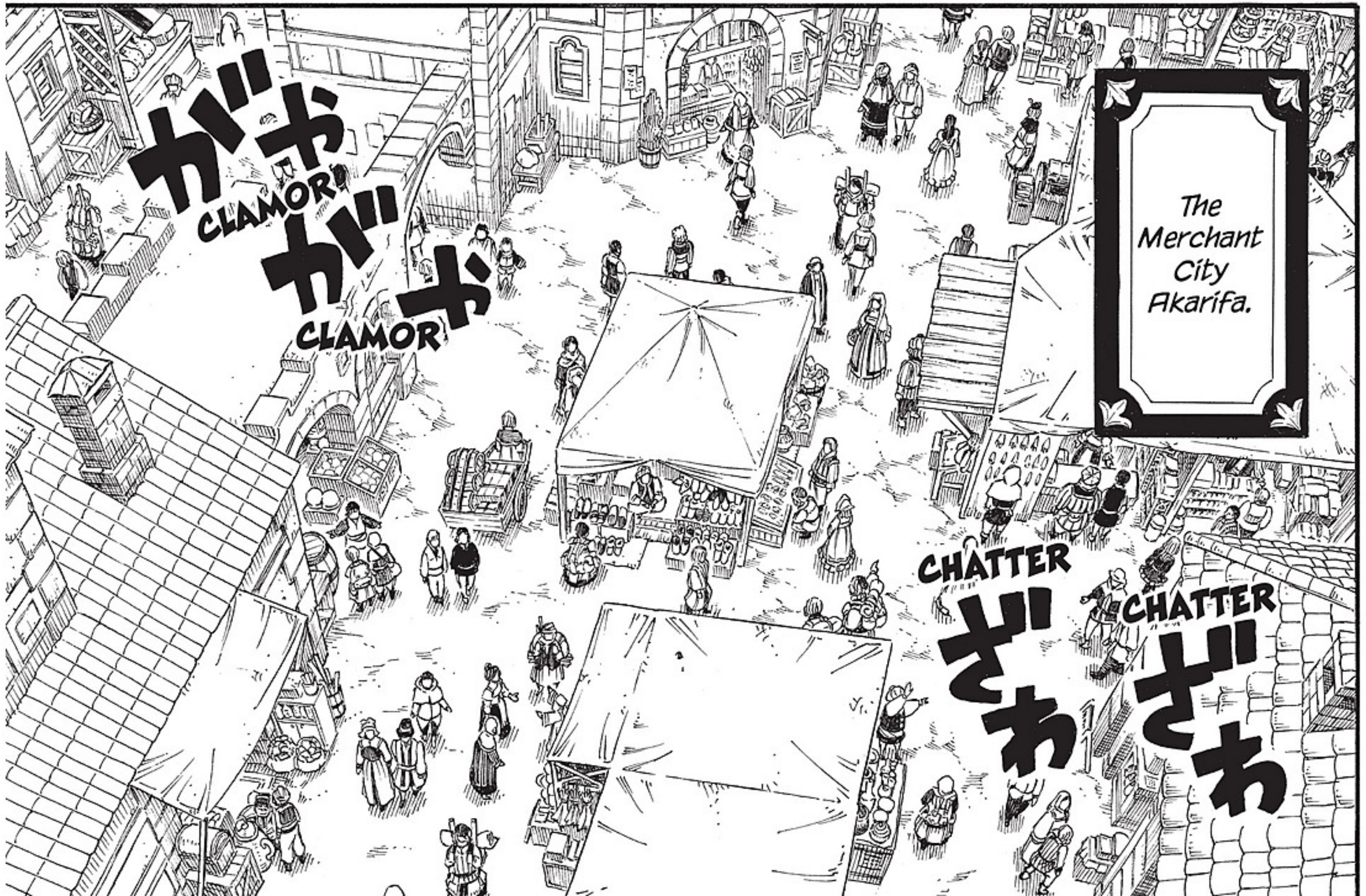
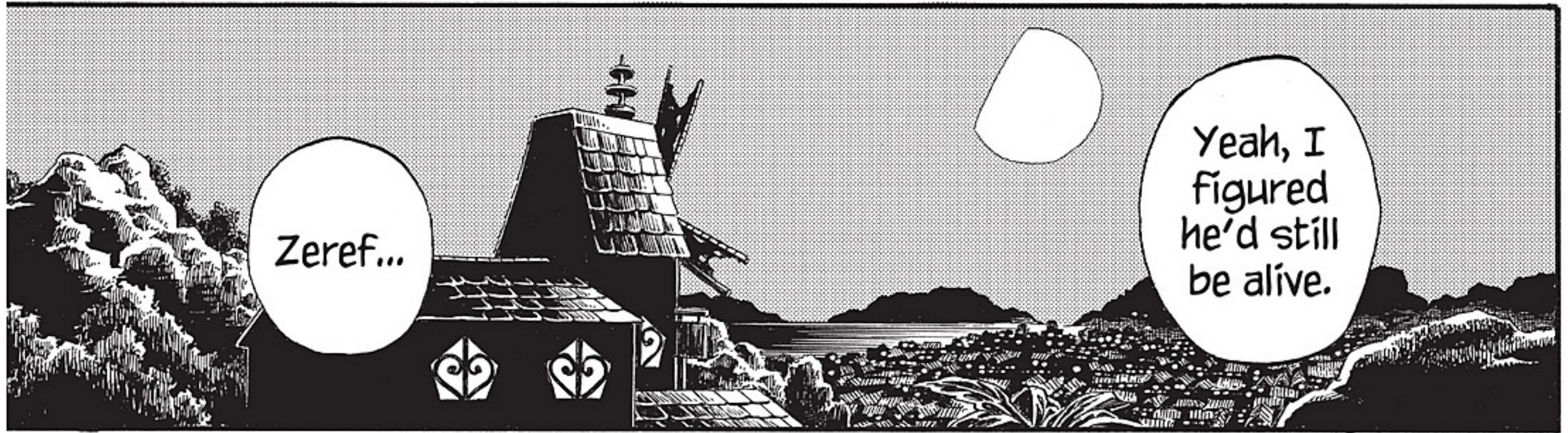
A-And
I'm really not
doing this just
to borrow
some money.

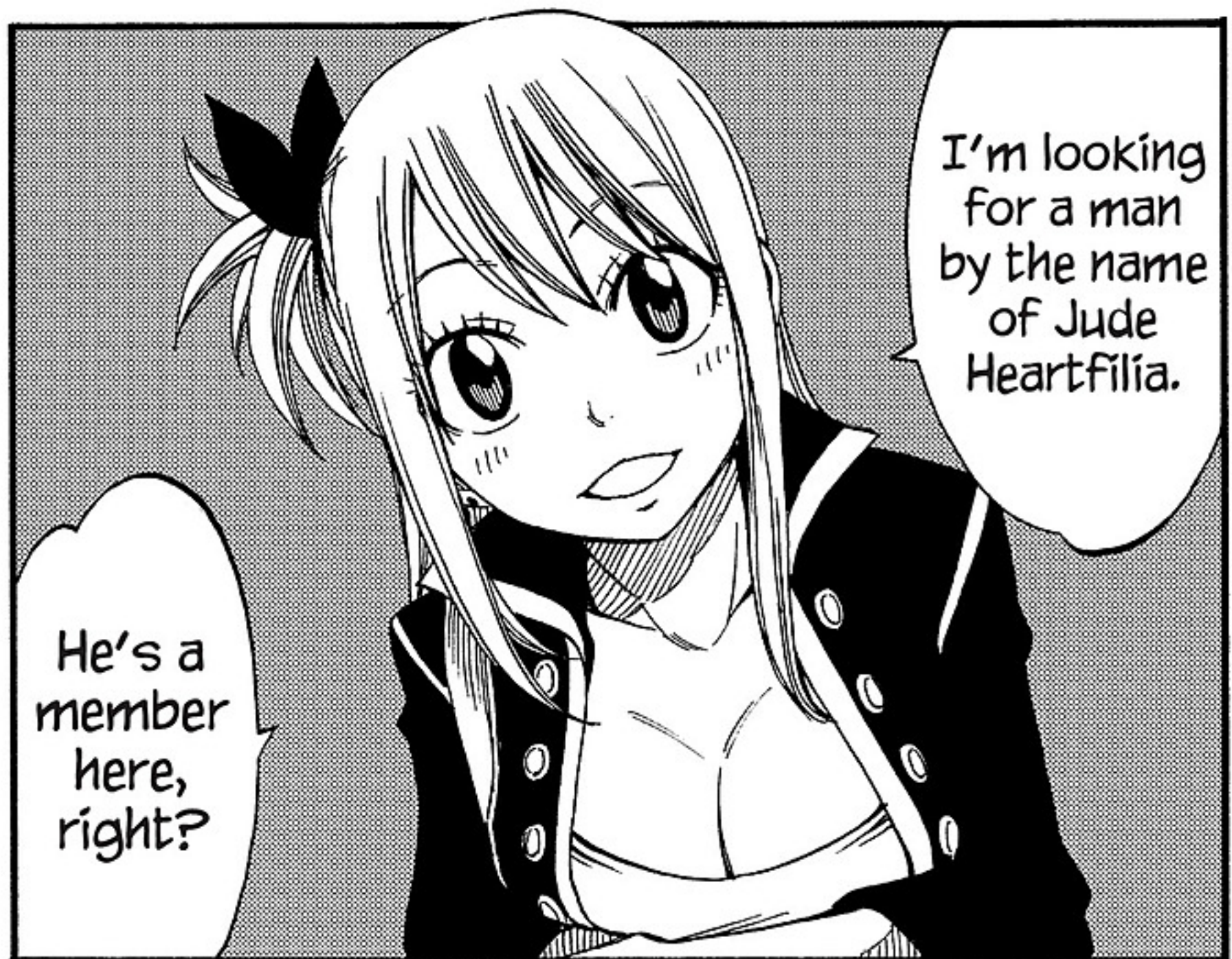


...it
was like
our lives
had been
emptied
out.

But with
seven
years
lost...









A month
ago, Jude-
san passed
away.

I truly am
sorry.

*...are
hitting
us
hard.*

*Those
seven
empty
years...*

FAIRY TAIL



FAIRY TAIL	
Name:	Romeo Conbolt
Age:	13
Magic:	Rainbow Fire
Likes:	The Guild
Dislikes:	Twilight Ogre



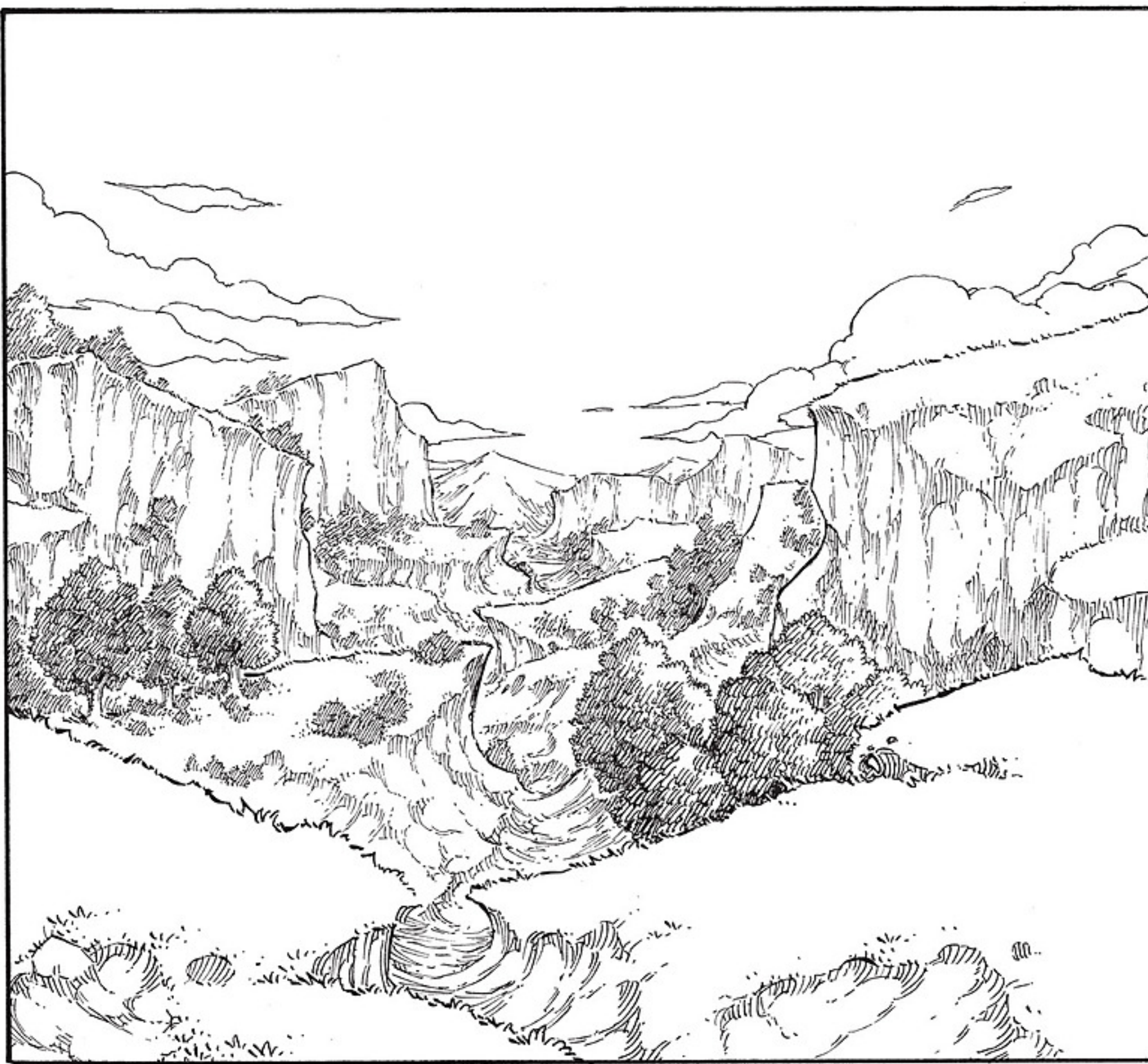
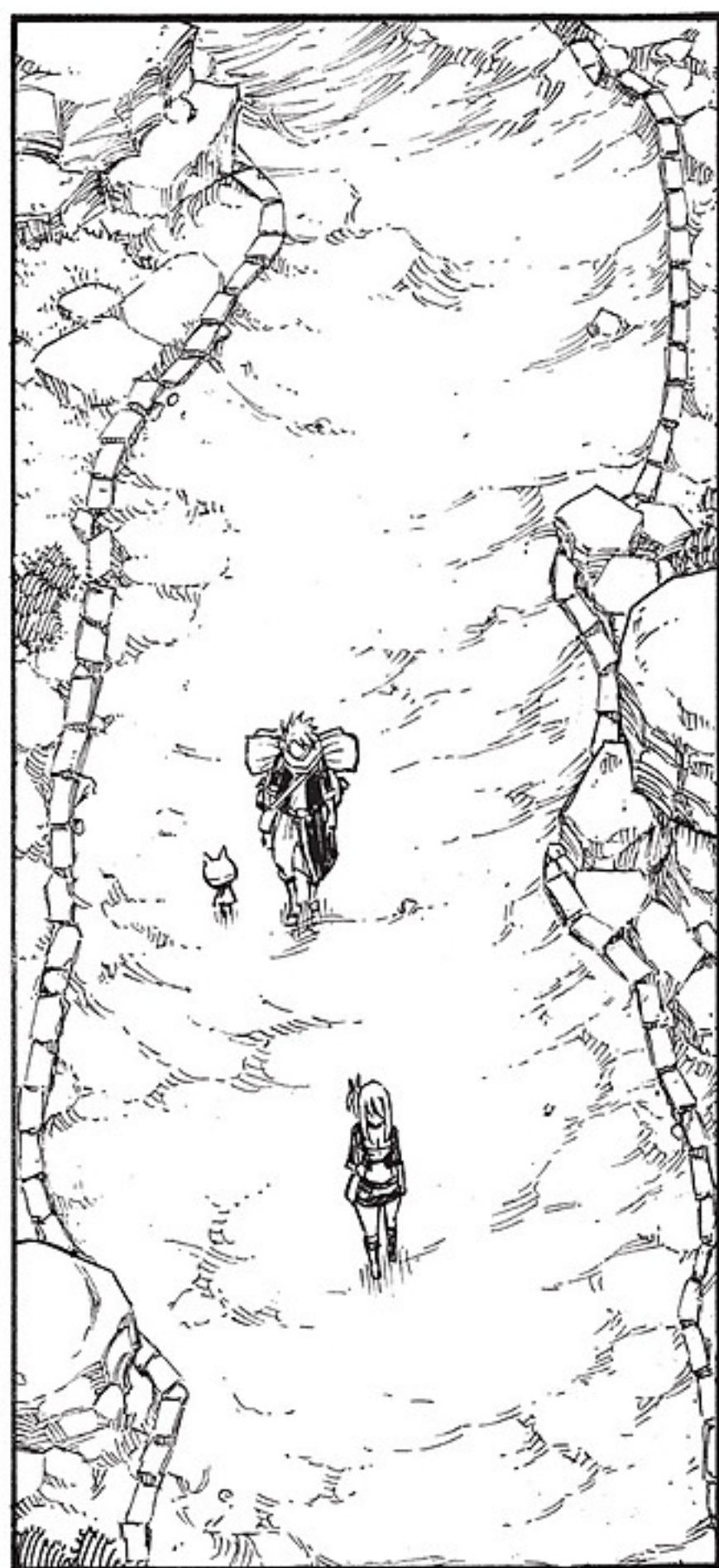
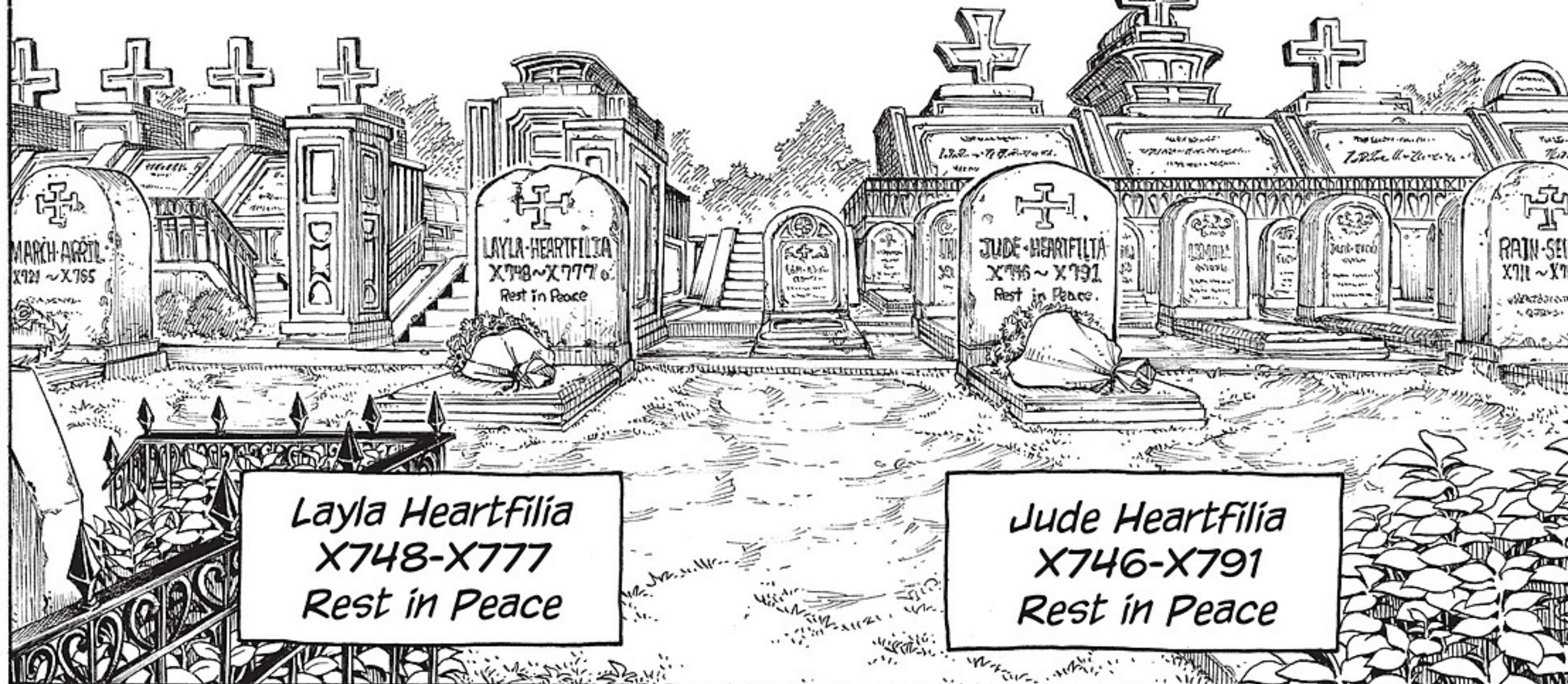
Chapter 256: Father's Seven Years

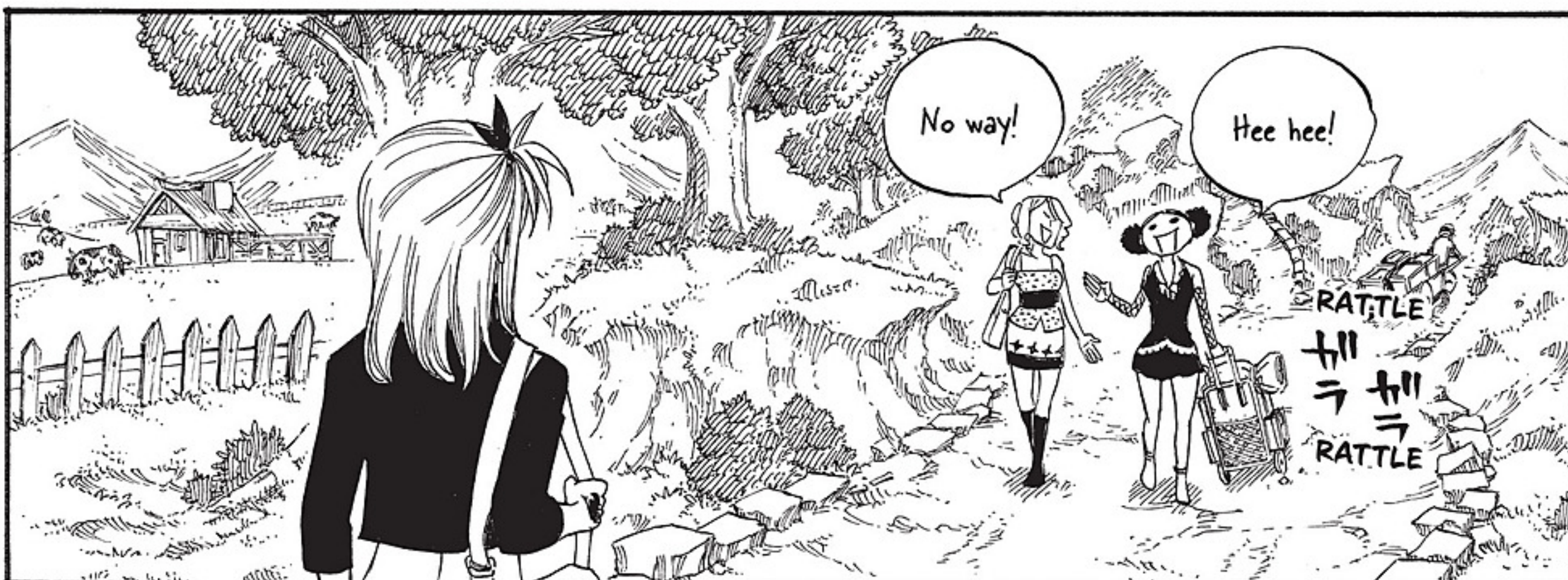
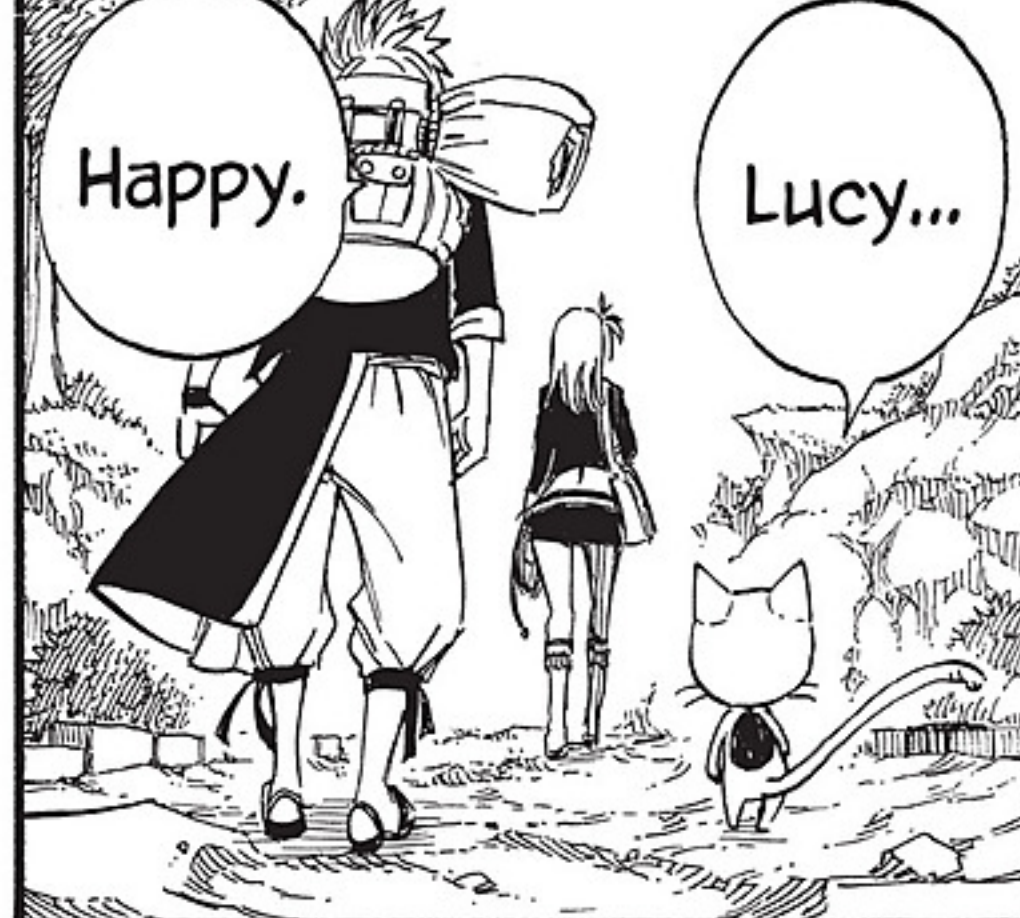
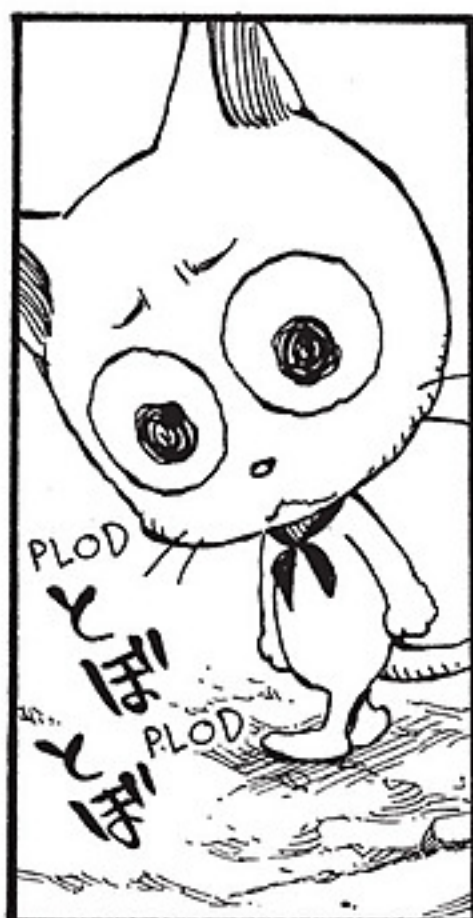
Remarks

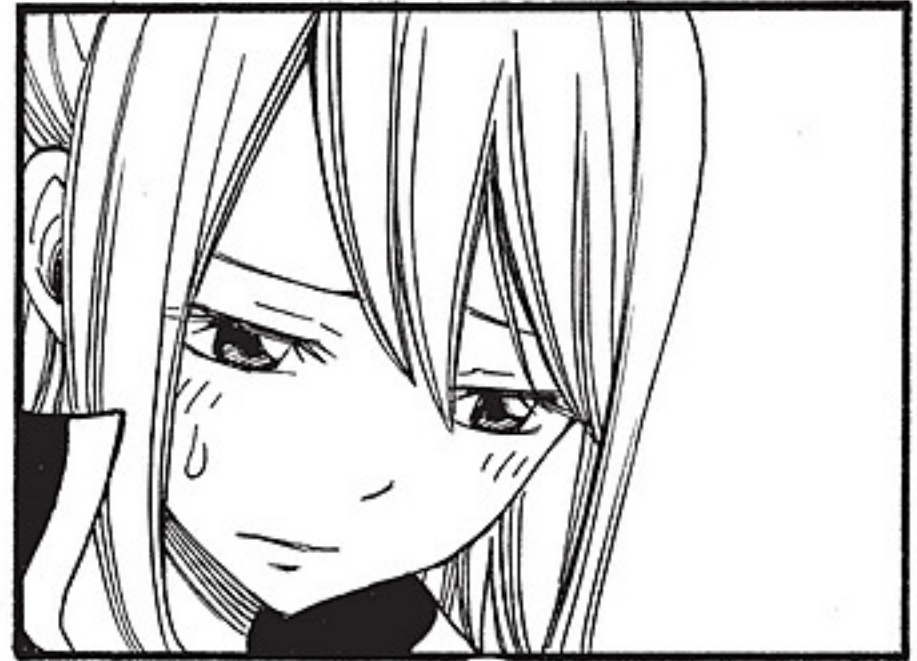
Son of Macao, the fourth master of Fairy Tail.

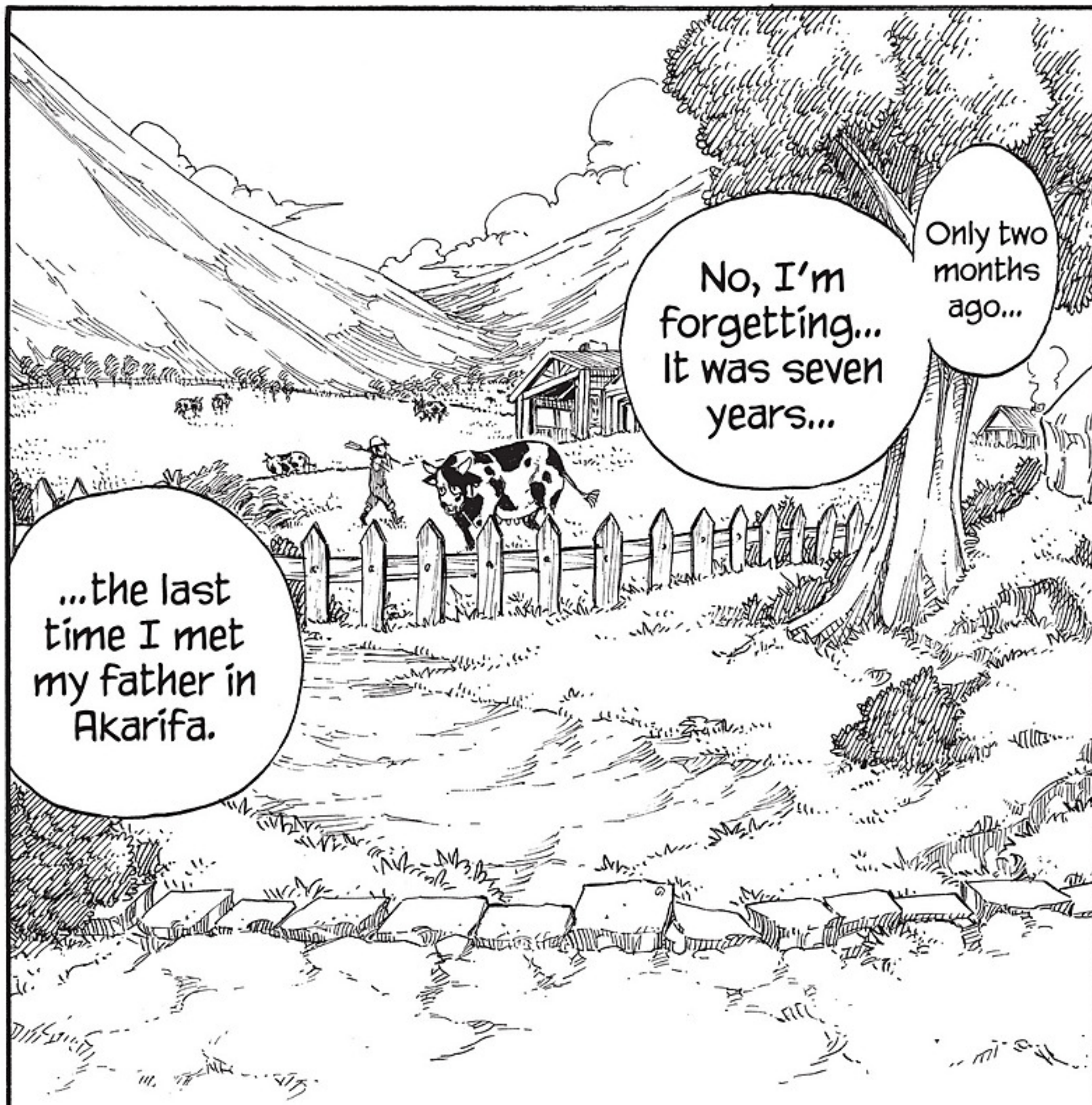
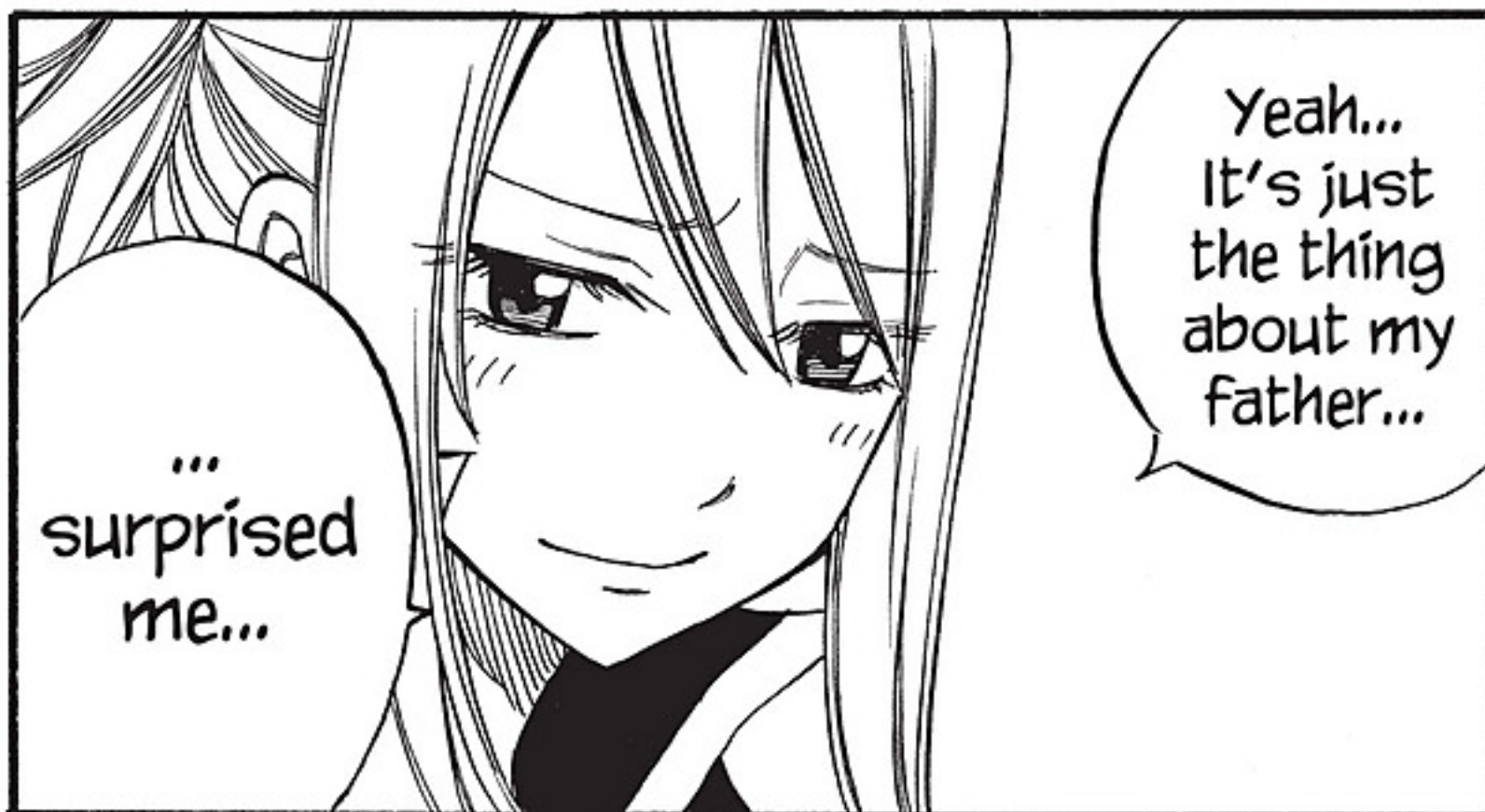
He's always admired Natsu, calls him "big brother," and is very attached to him. Ever since a point seven years prior, it's been his dream to enter Fairy Tail. Soon after joining, he started taking lessons in Totomaru's magic class. He is now there learning Rainbow Fire, a magic that uses seven different colored flames that each have different properties.

After the disappearance of Sirius Island, he was never seen to smile in the presence of others, but after Natsu and the other members returned, so did his smile.

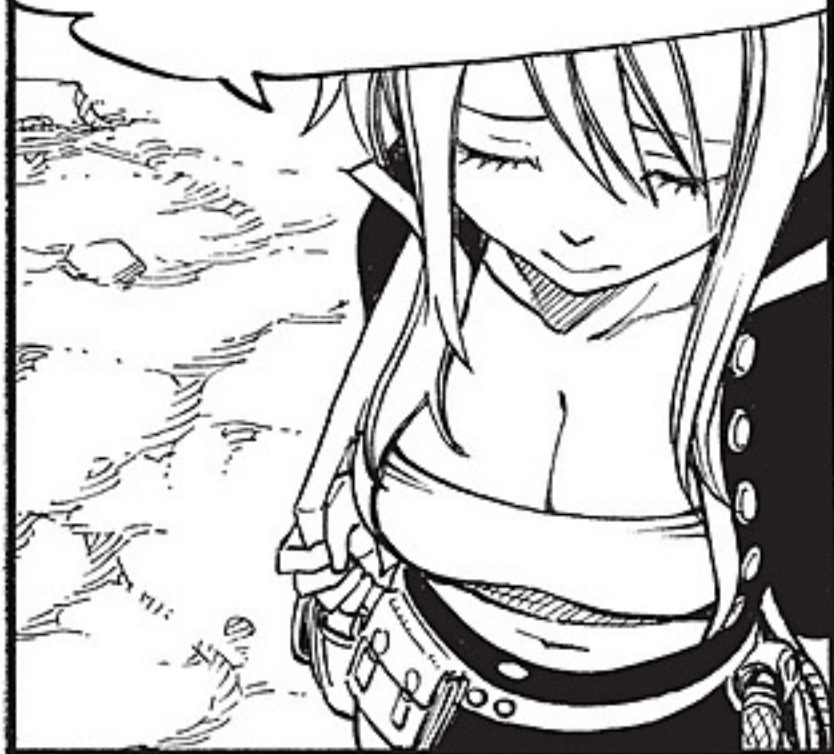




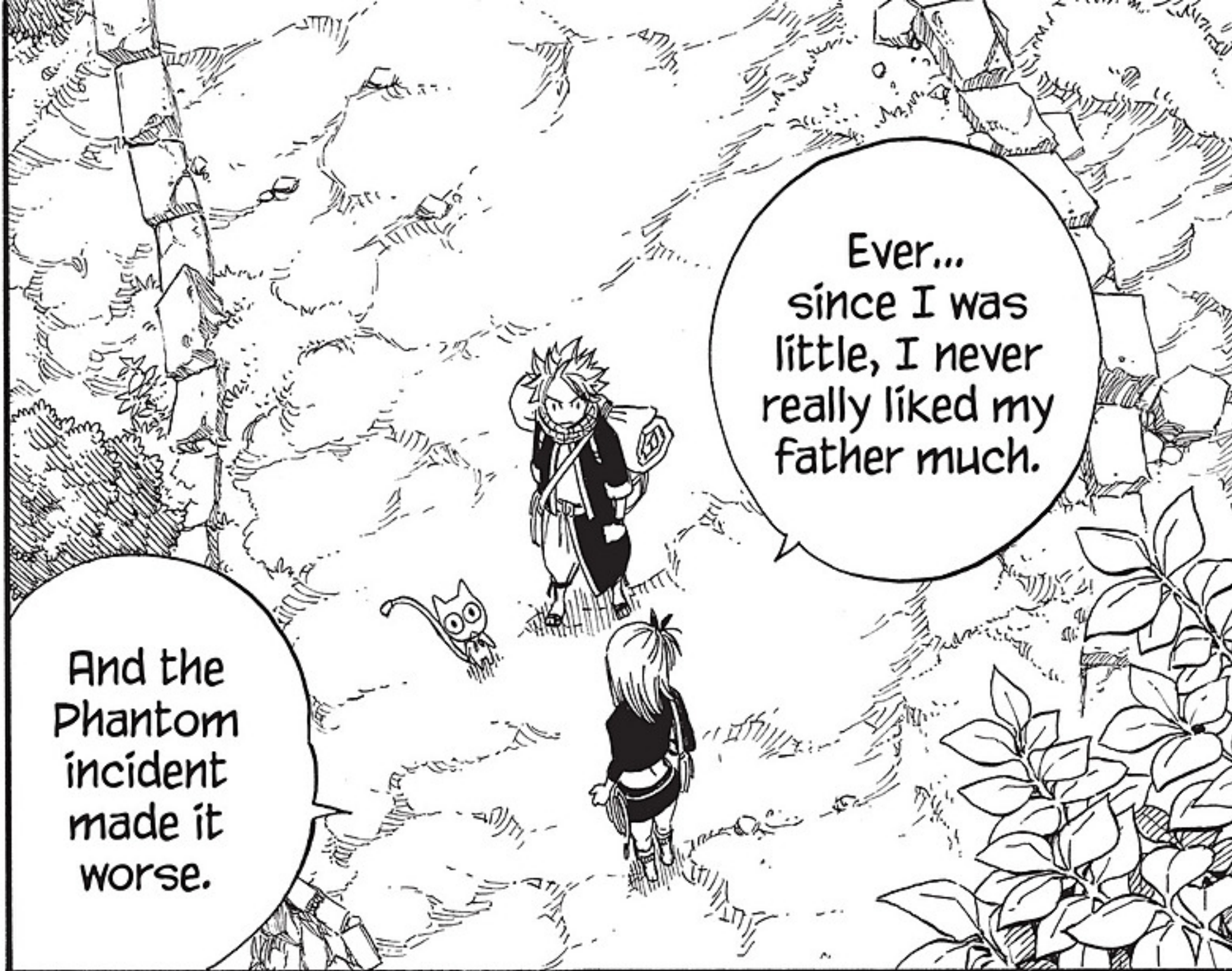




But... then there was that thing that happened in Akarifa, and from then on, it seemed to me that our relationship was changing for the better.

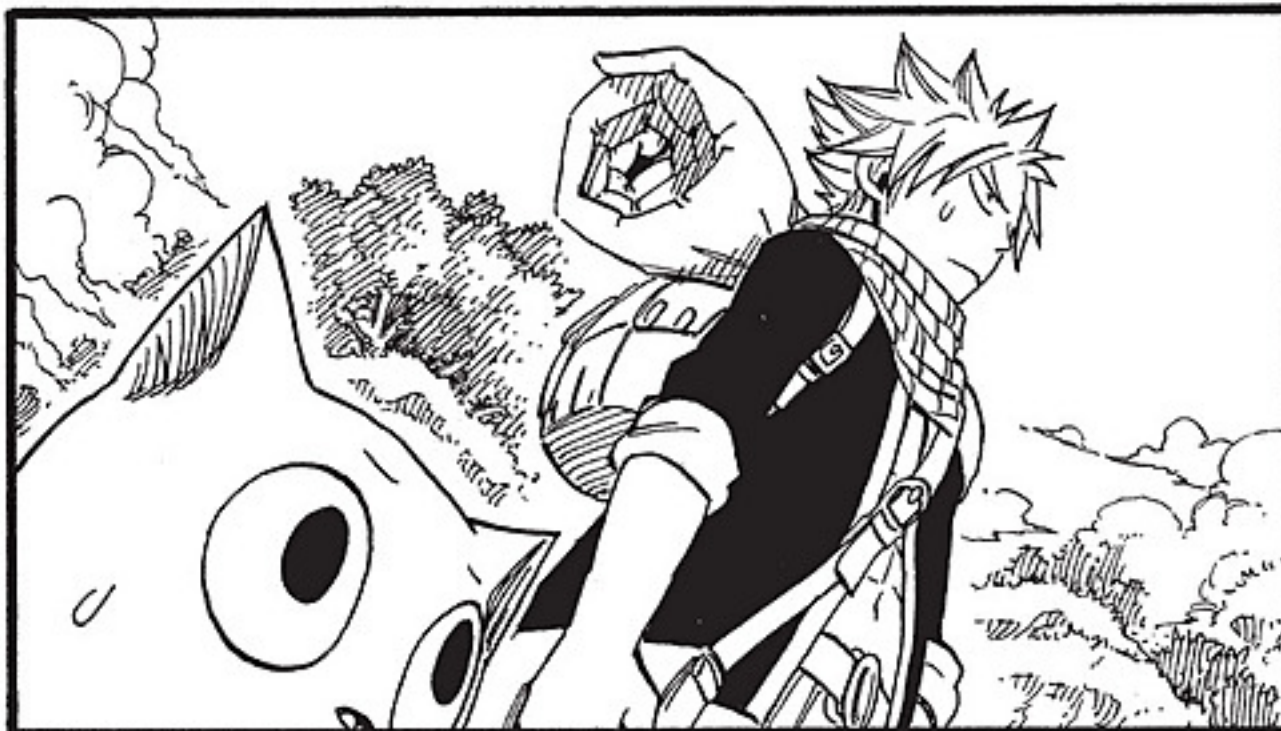
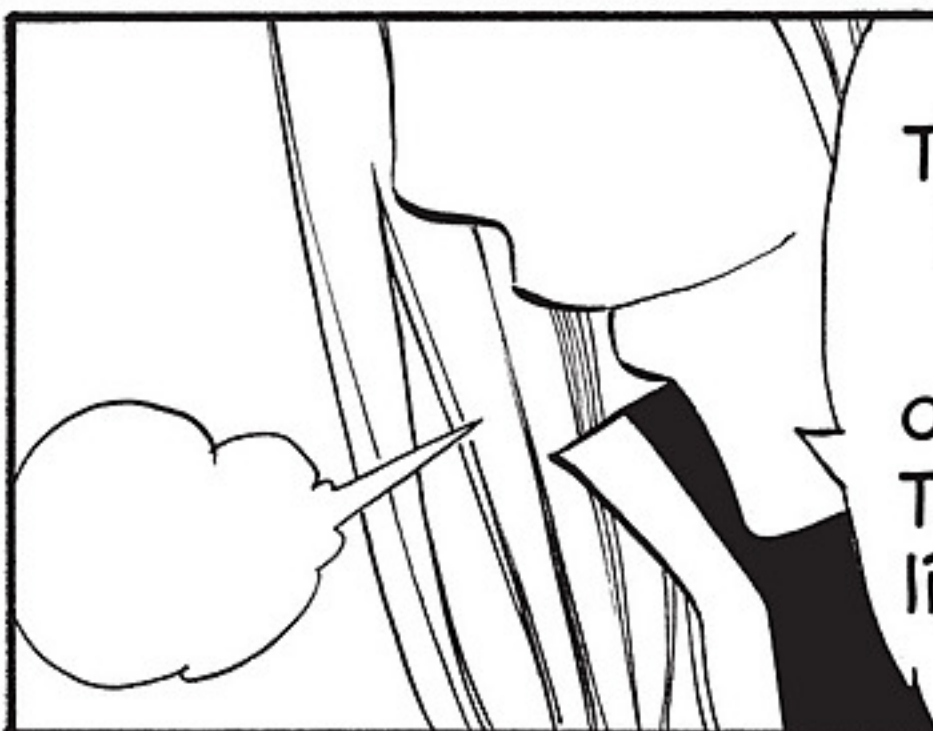


And the Phantom incident made it worse.



Ever... since I was little, I never really liked my father much.

They said he died from overwork. That's so like him...



But the tears just won't come.



But why, I wonder?

I'm sad... I feel so alone...



...whether
tears come
or not.

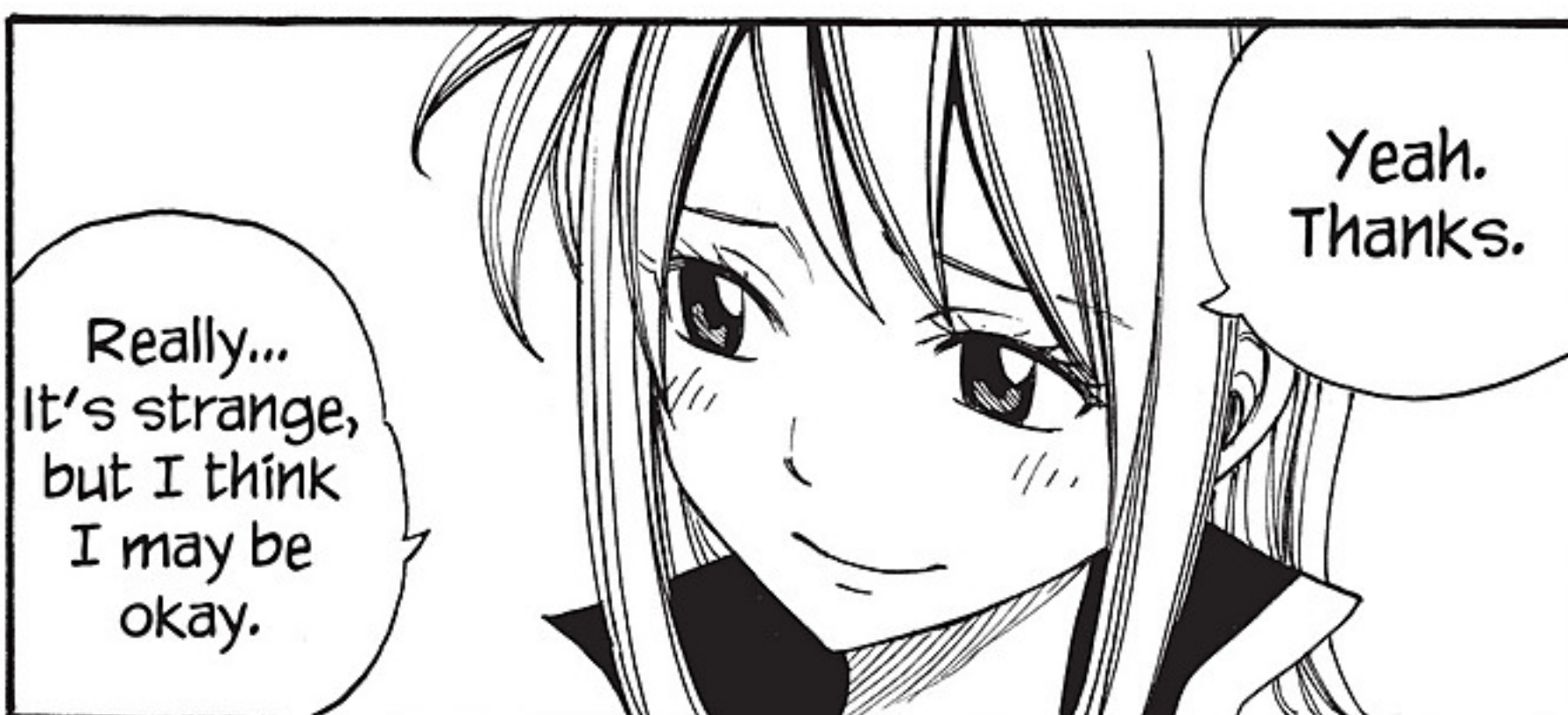
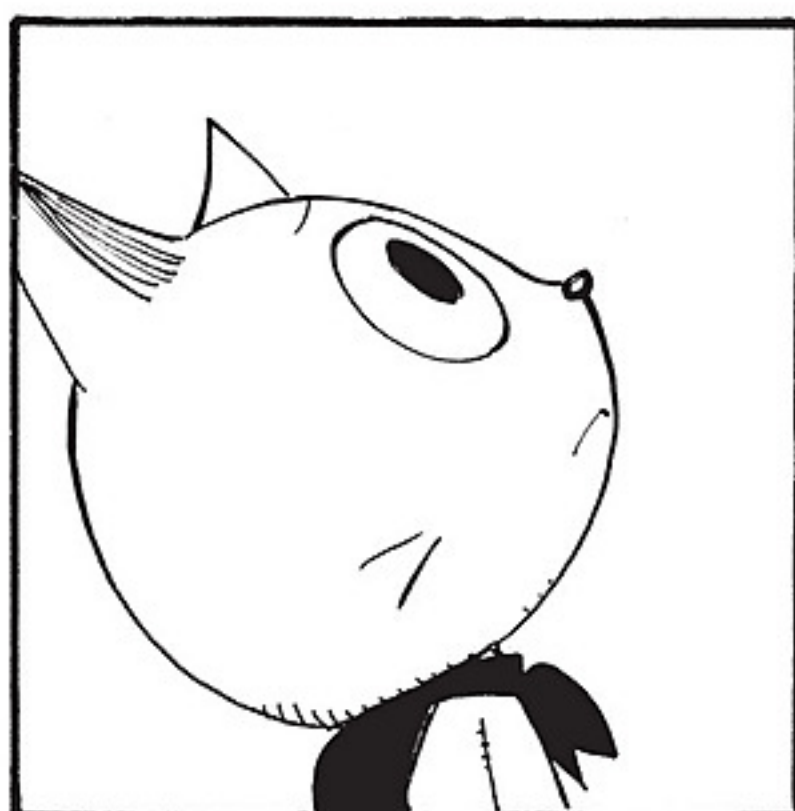
I'm no good
at explaining
things, but
I don't think
it's about...



No,
you're
wrong.



I guess I
still harbor
hard
feelings
...



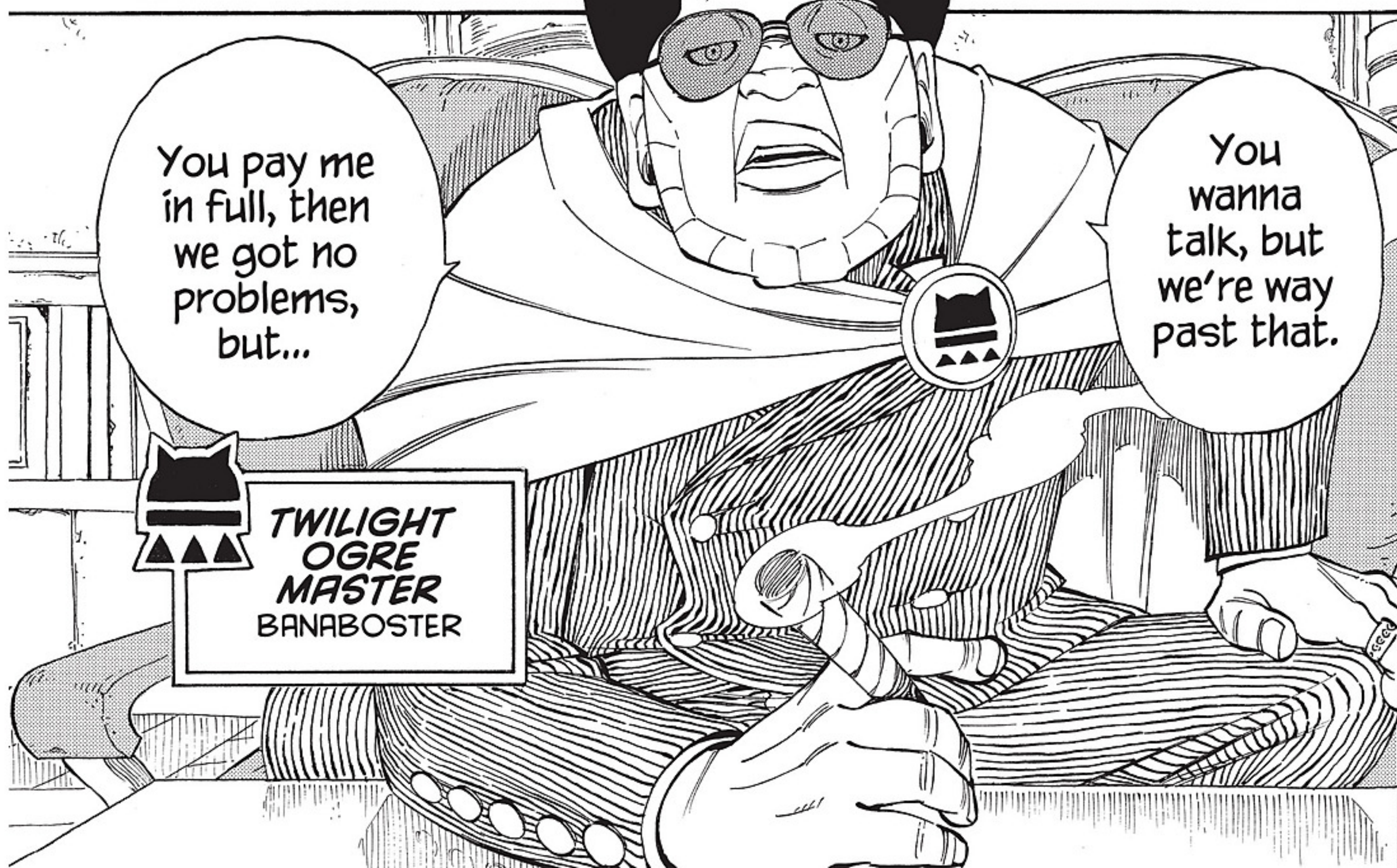
Really...
It's strange,
but I think
I may be
okay.

Yeah.
Thanks.



Like I'm
saying,
Gramps
...

Magnolia,
Twilight
Ogre...

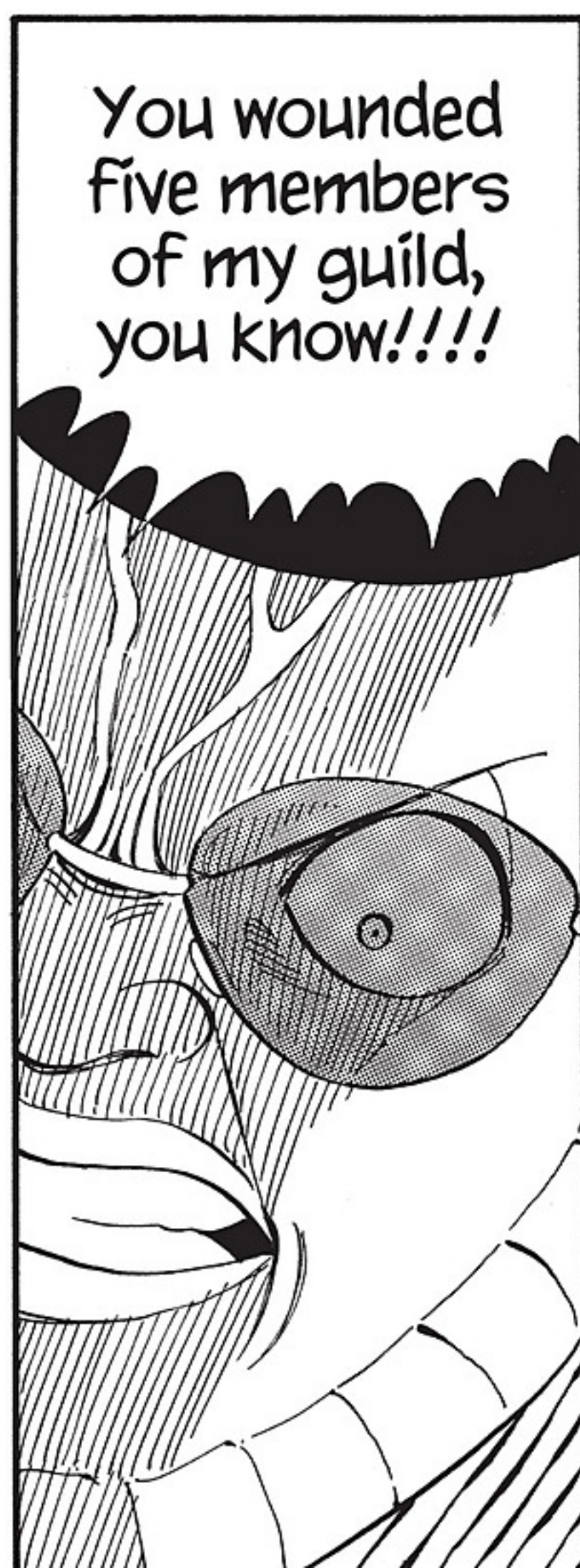
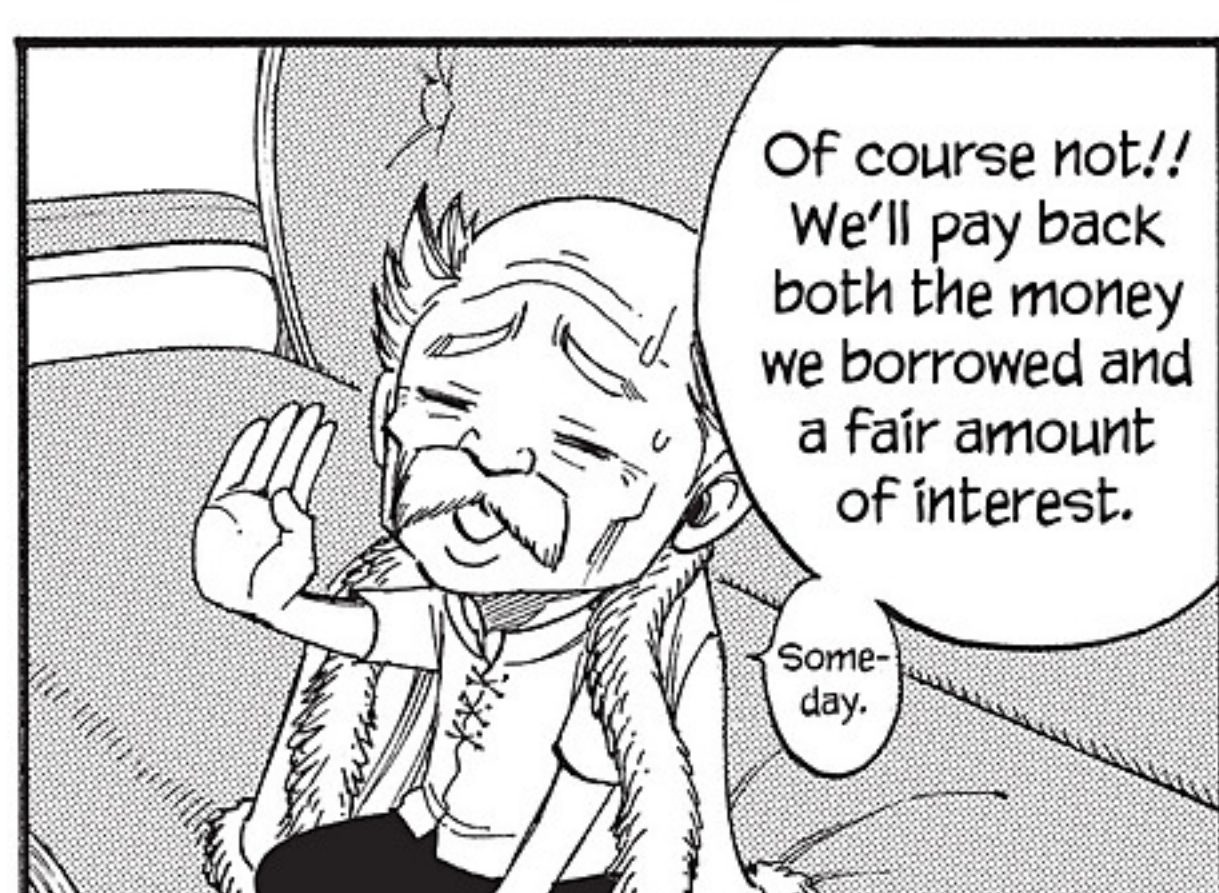
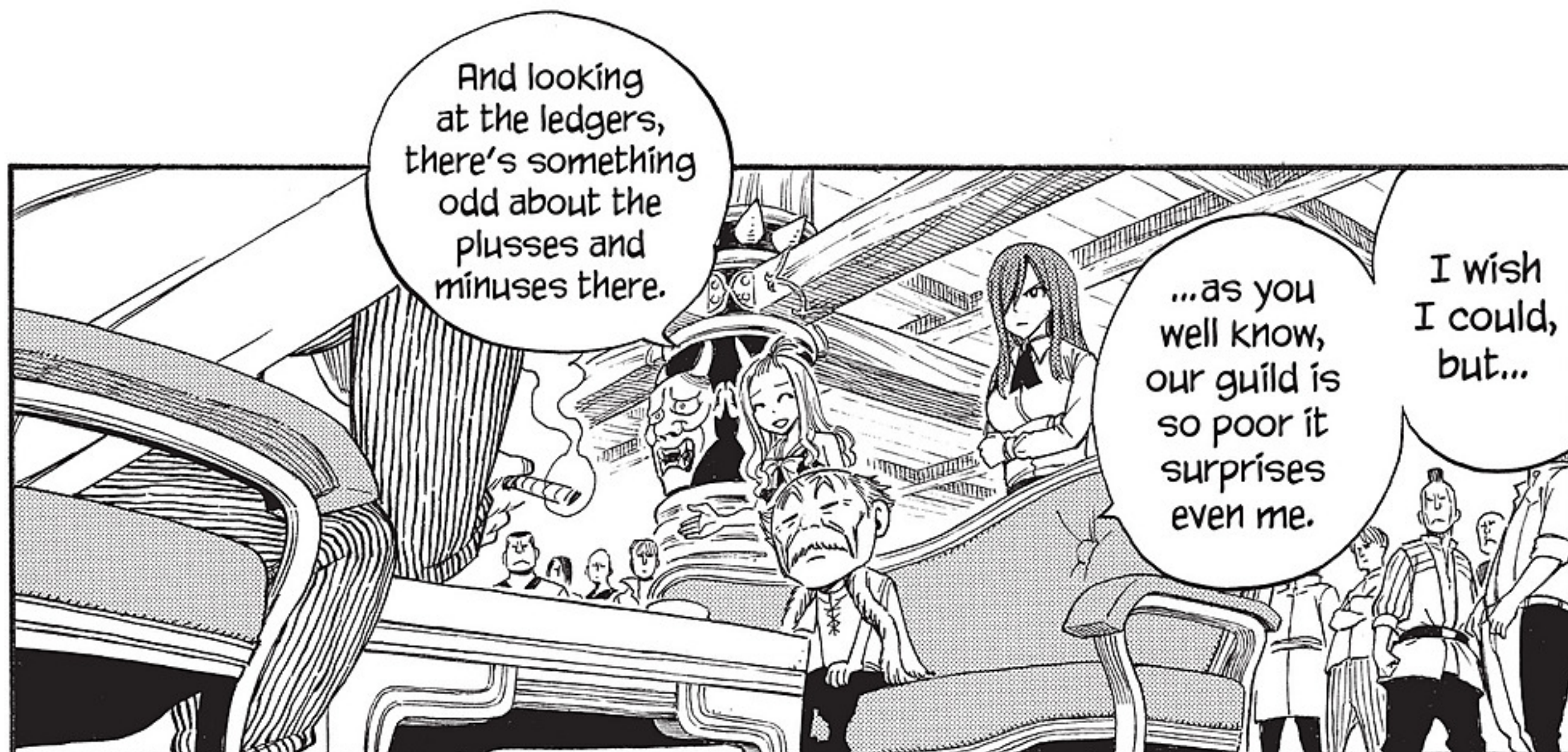


You pay me
in full, then
we got no
problems,
but...

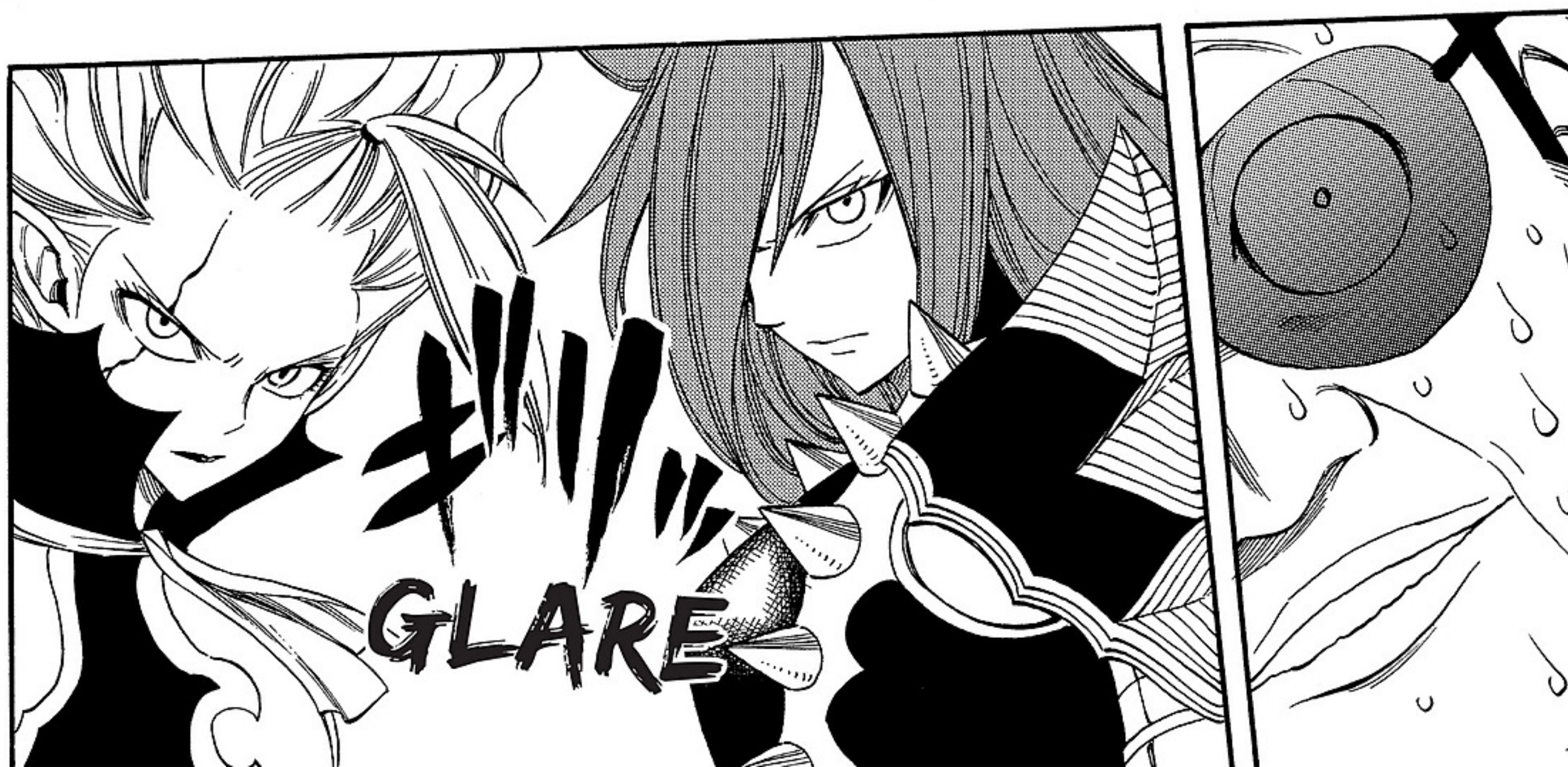
You
wanna
talk, but
we're way
past that.

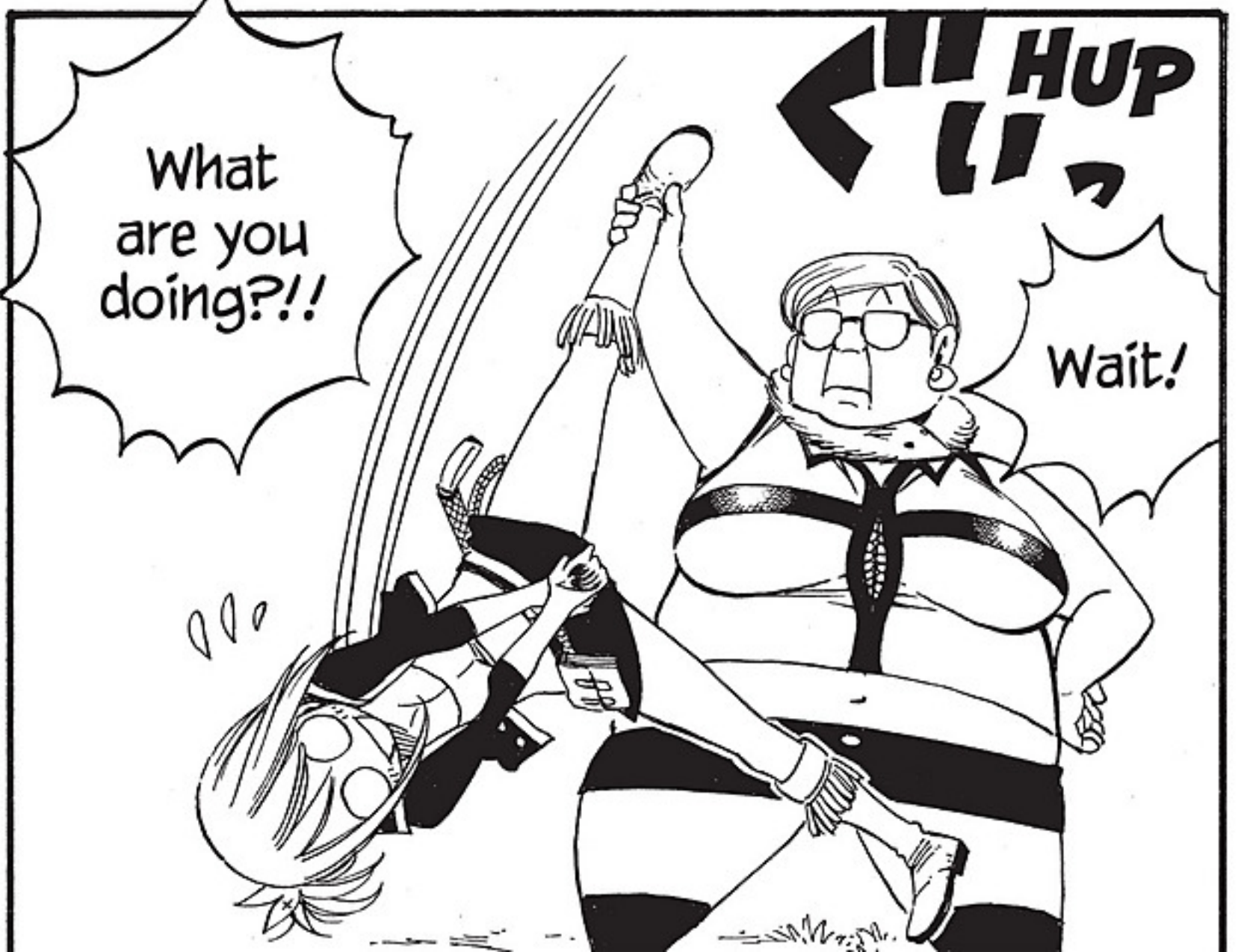
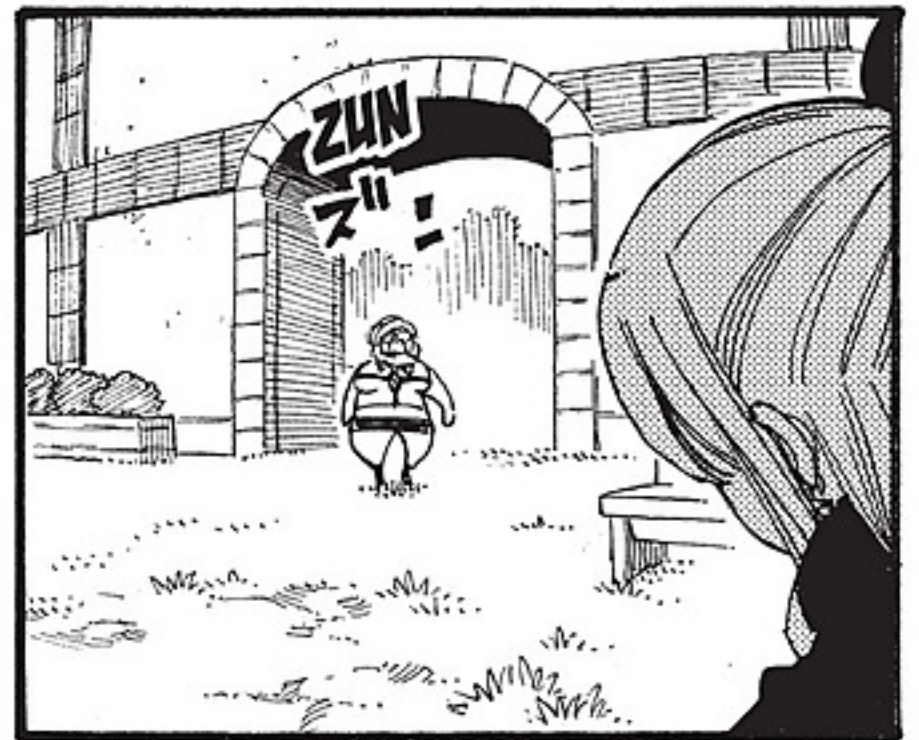
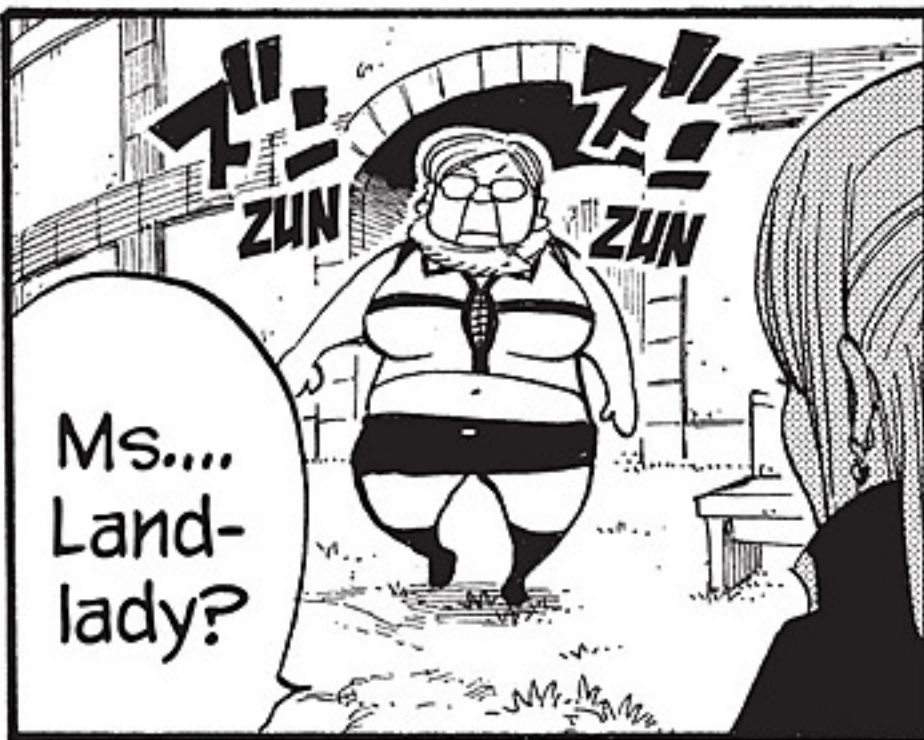
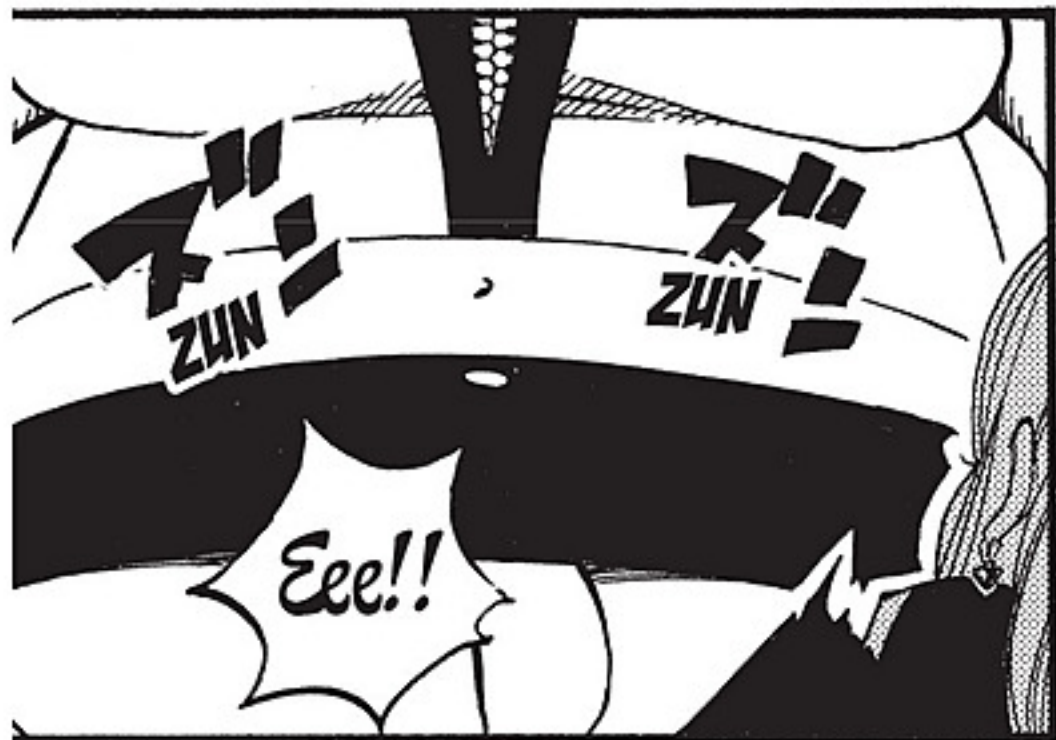
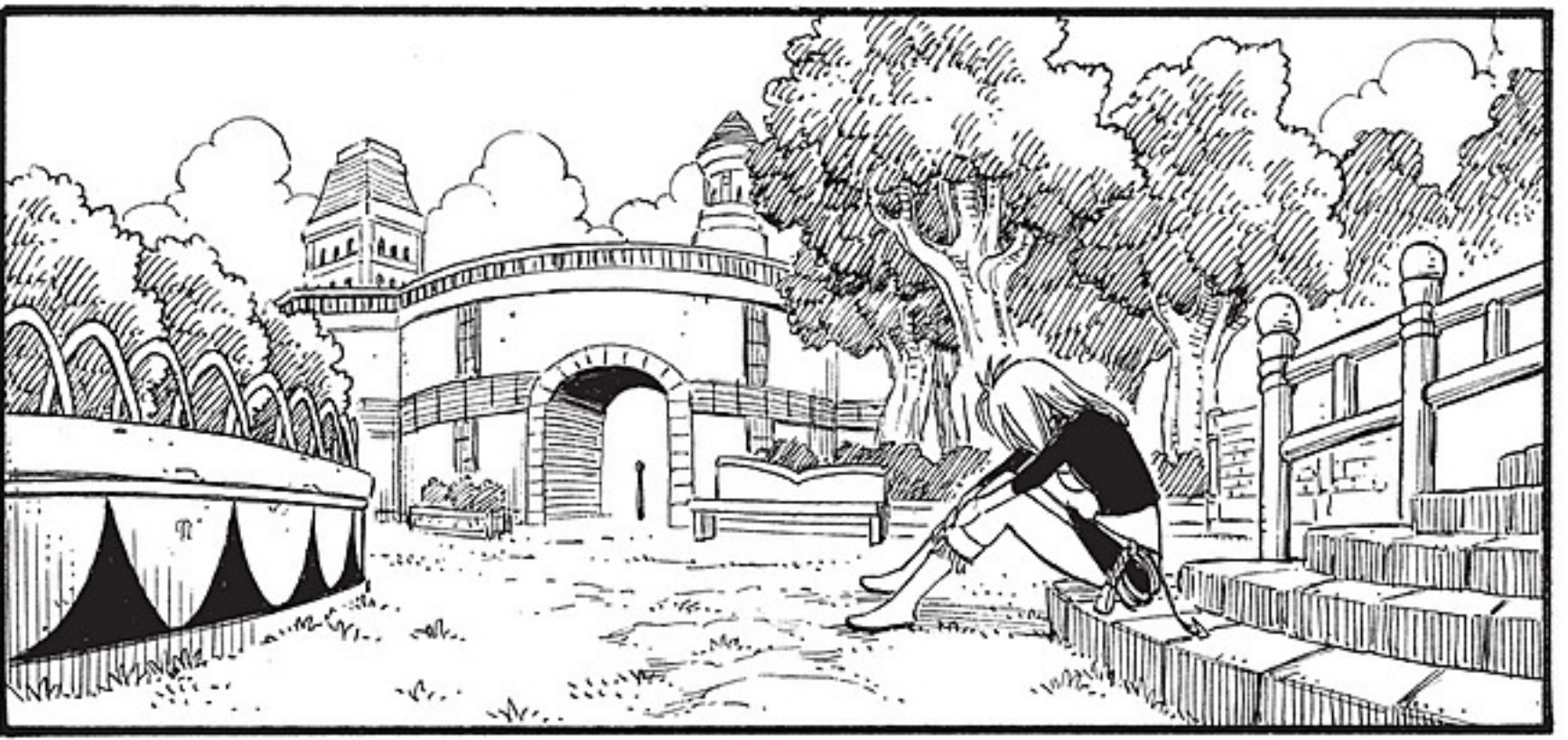
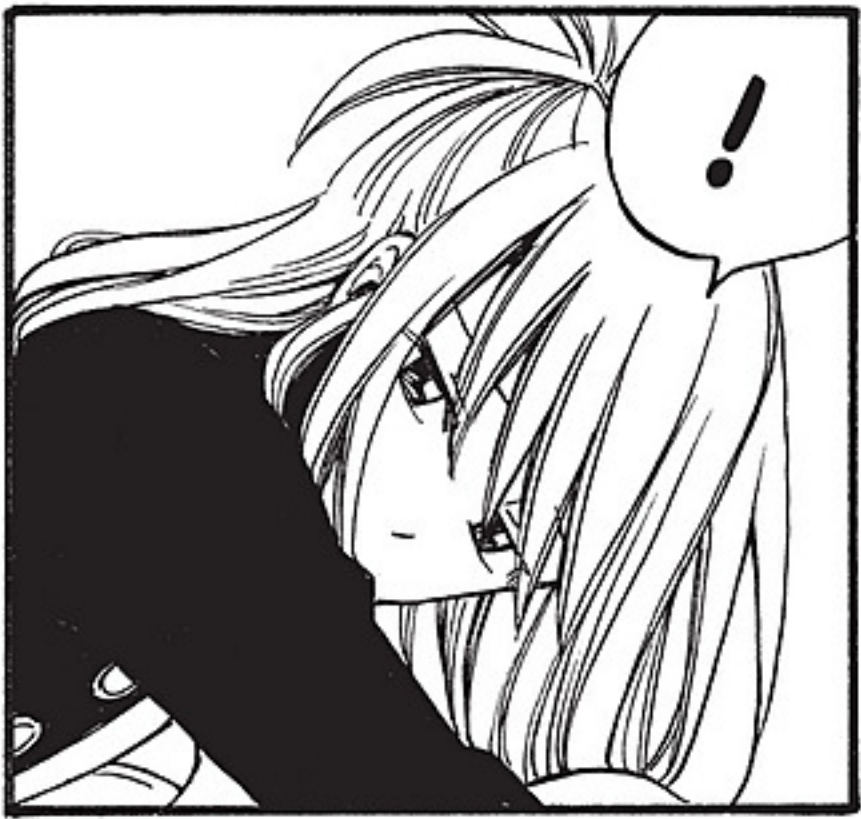
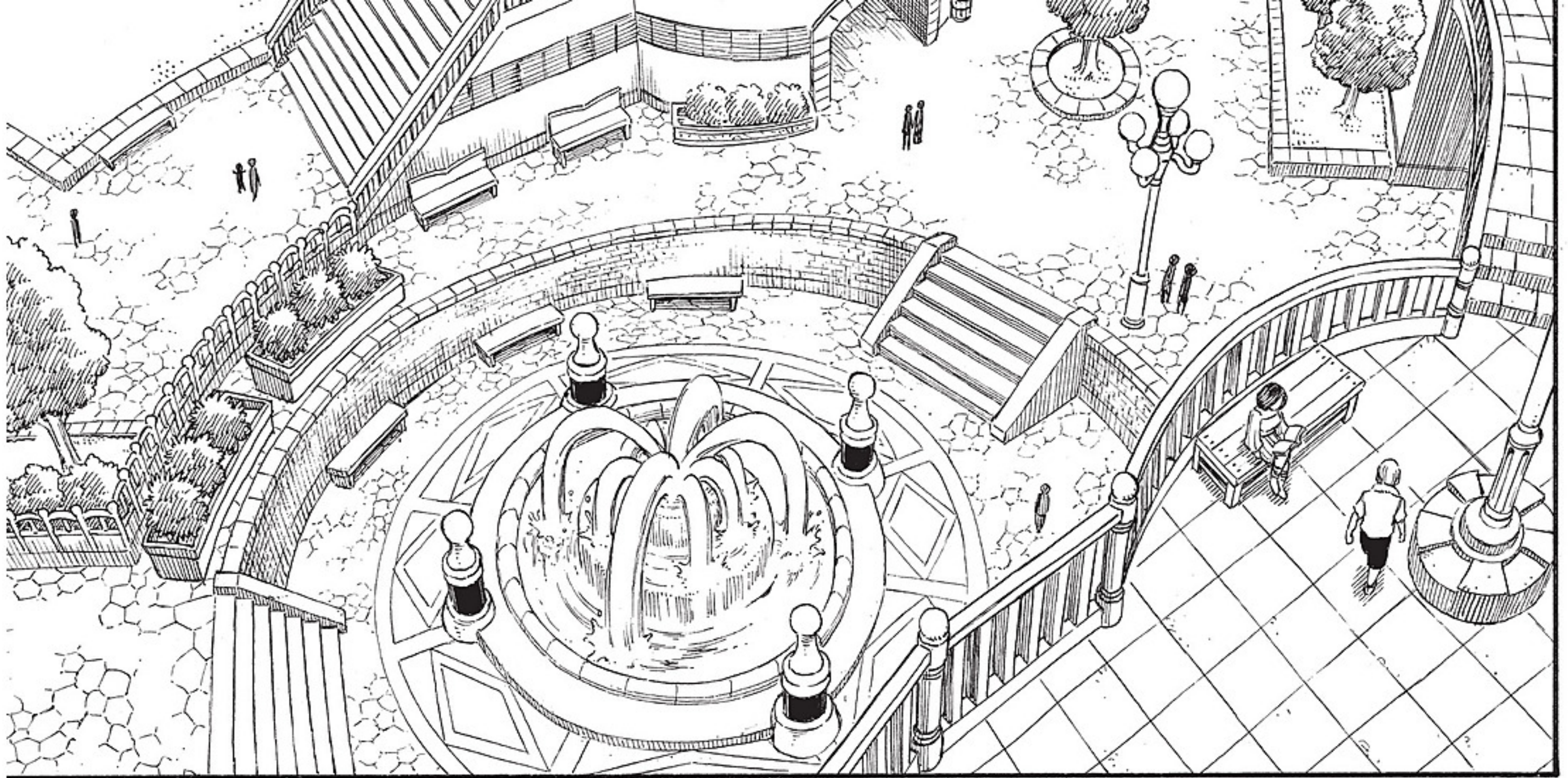


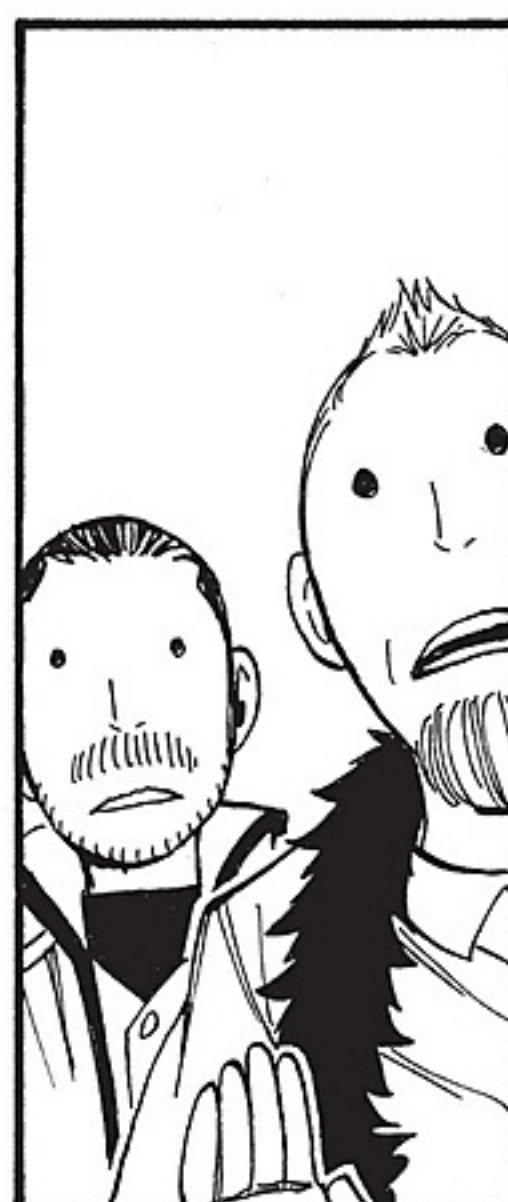
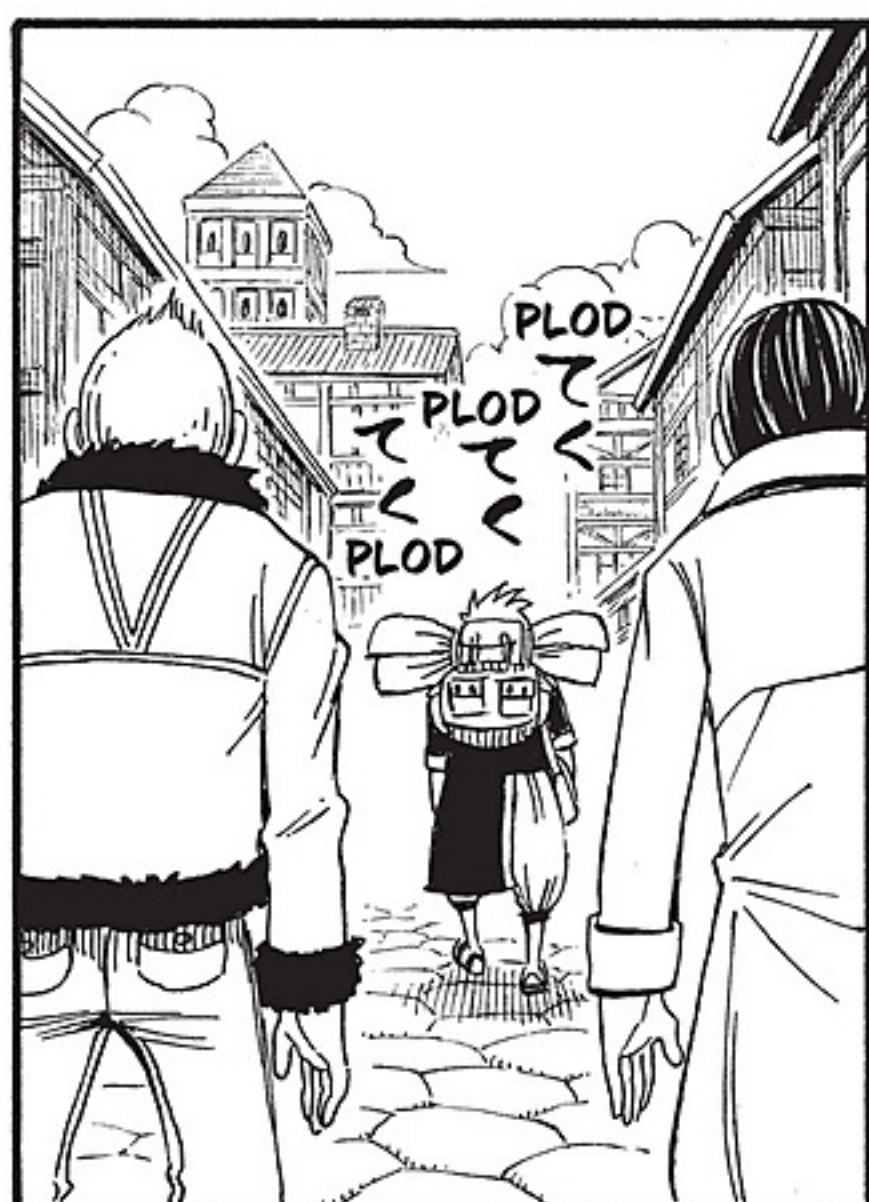
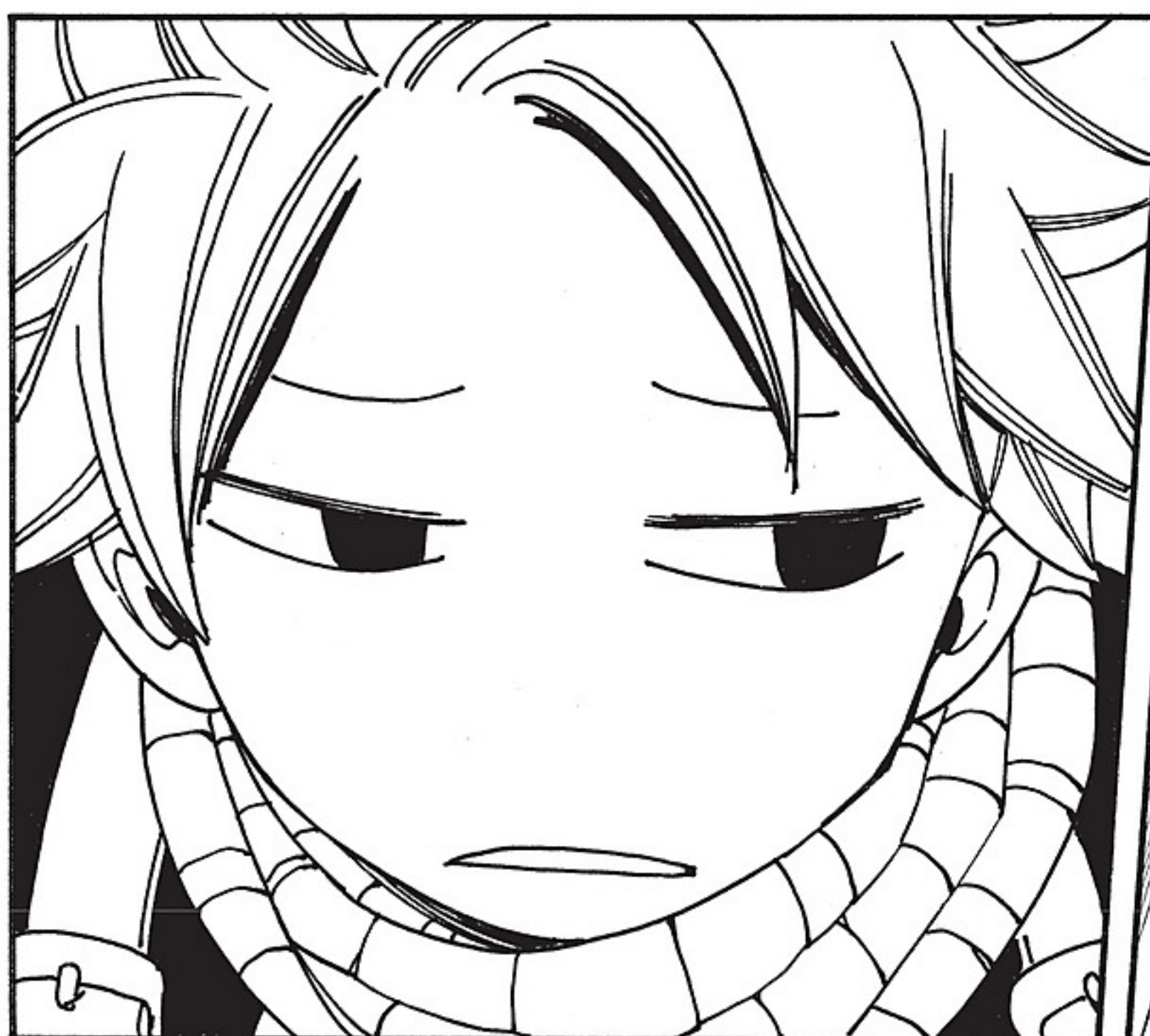
**TWILIGHT
OGRE
MASTER**
BANABOSTER

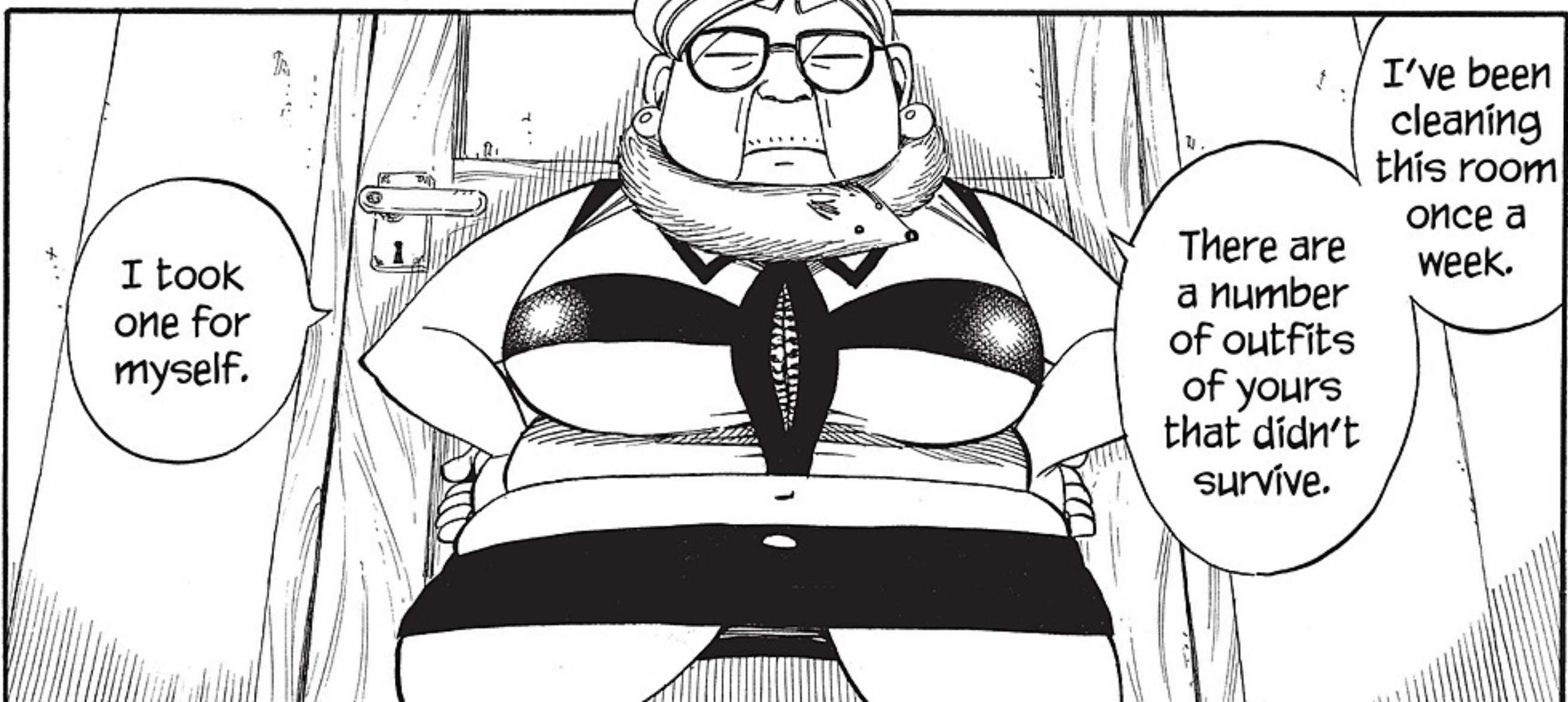
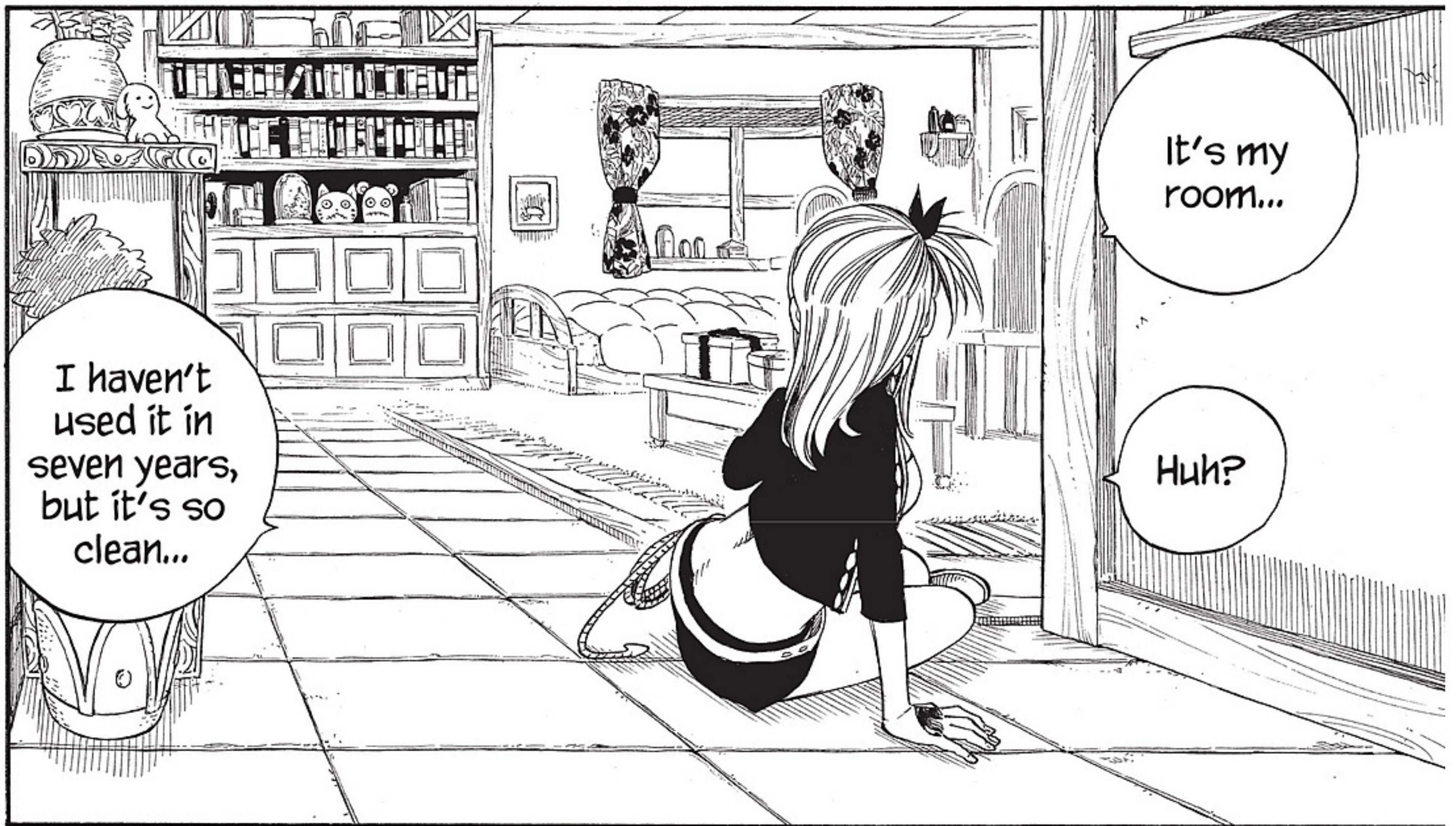
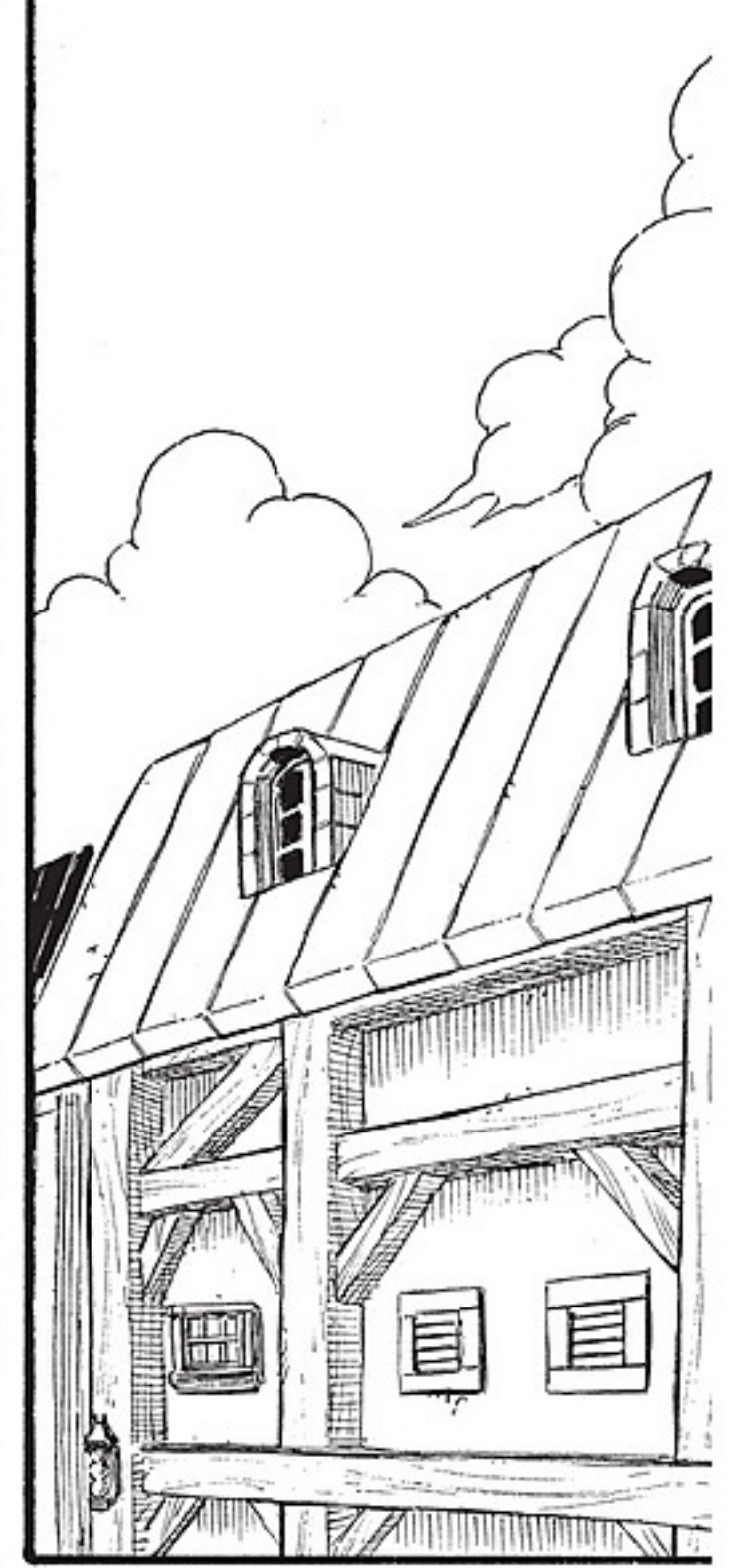


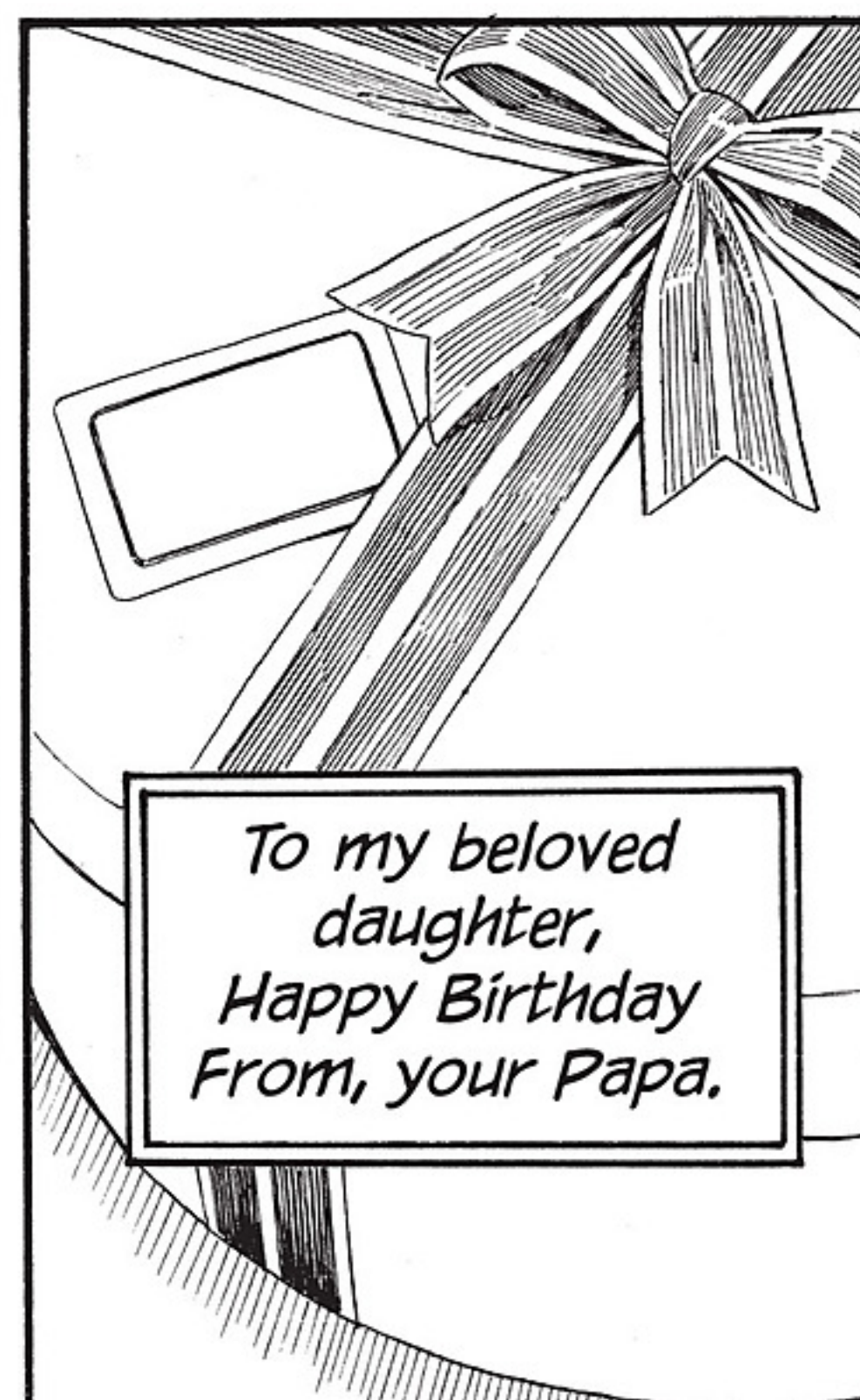
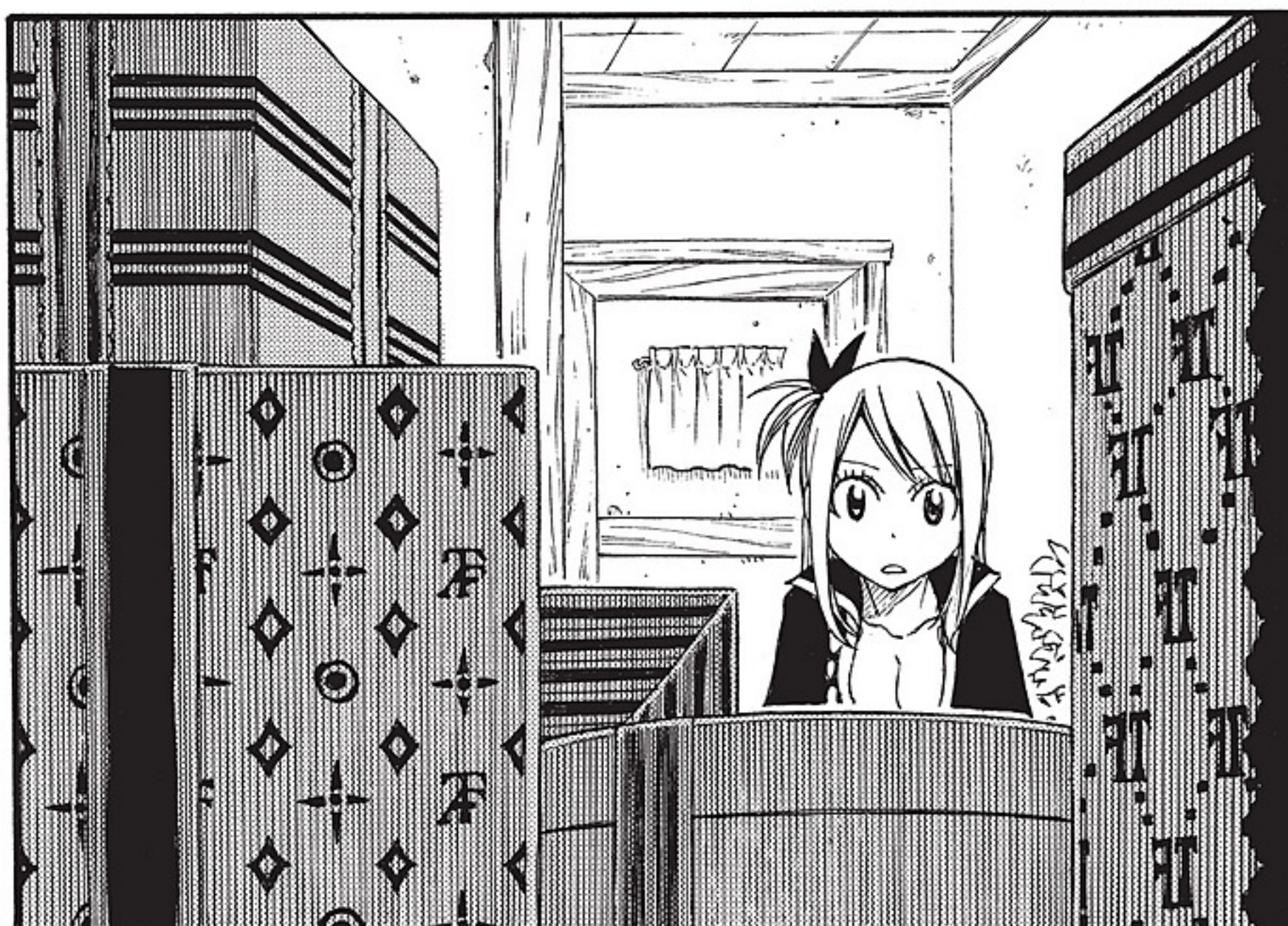
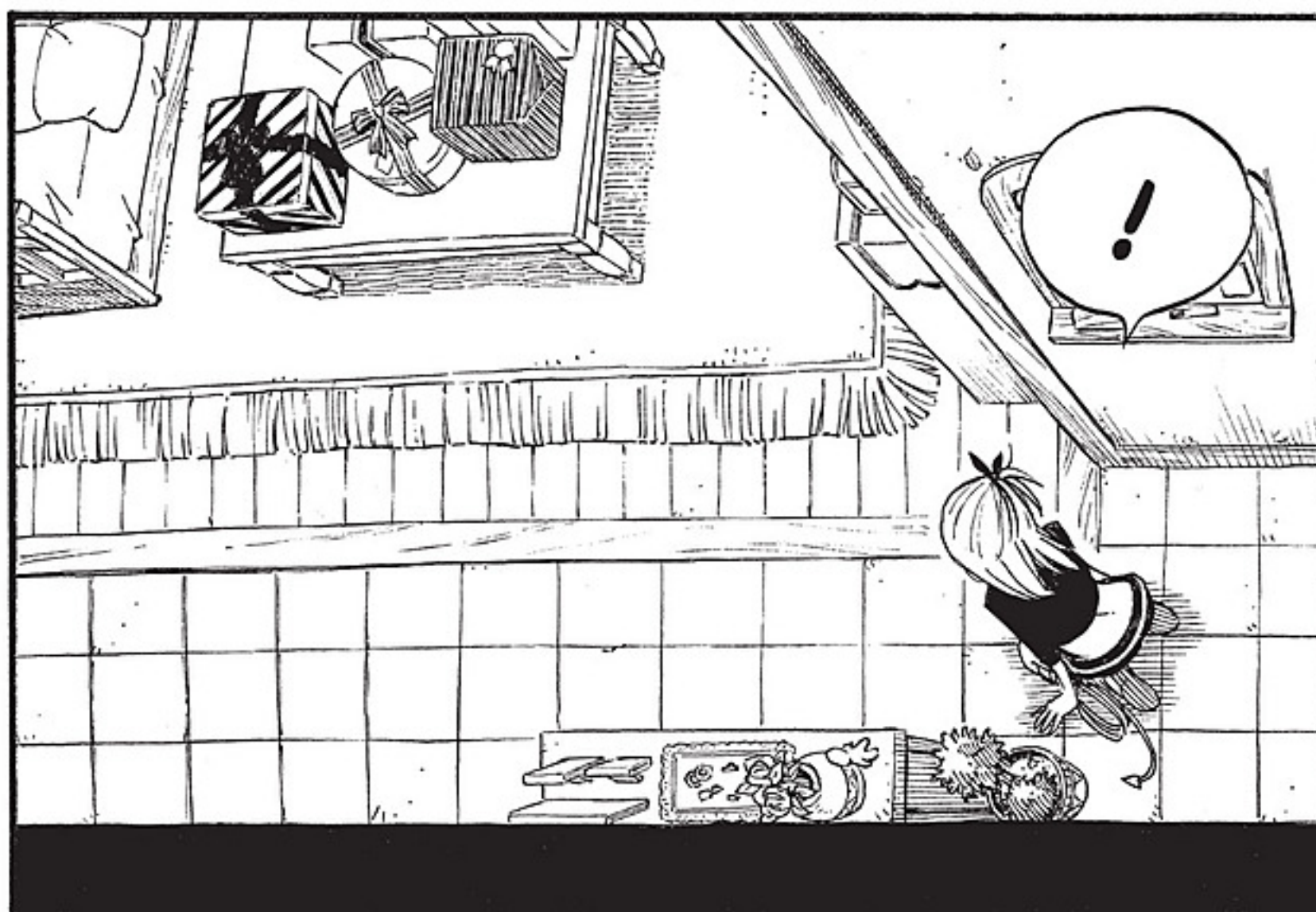


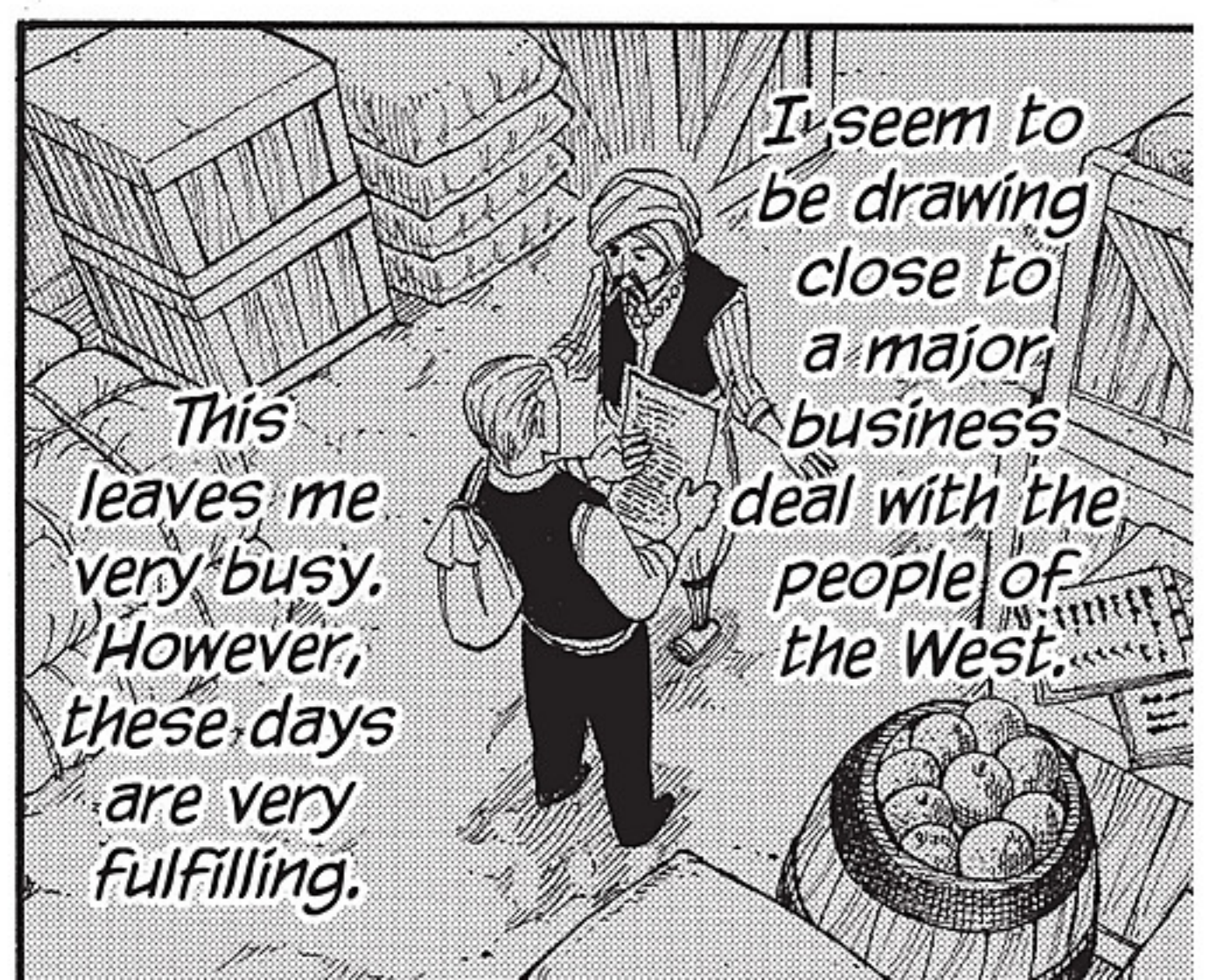
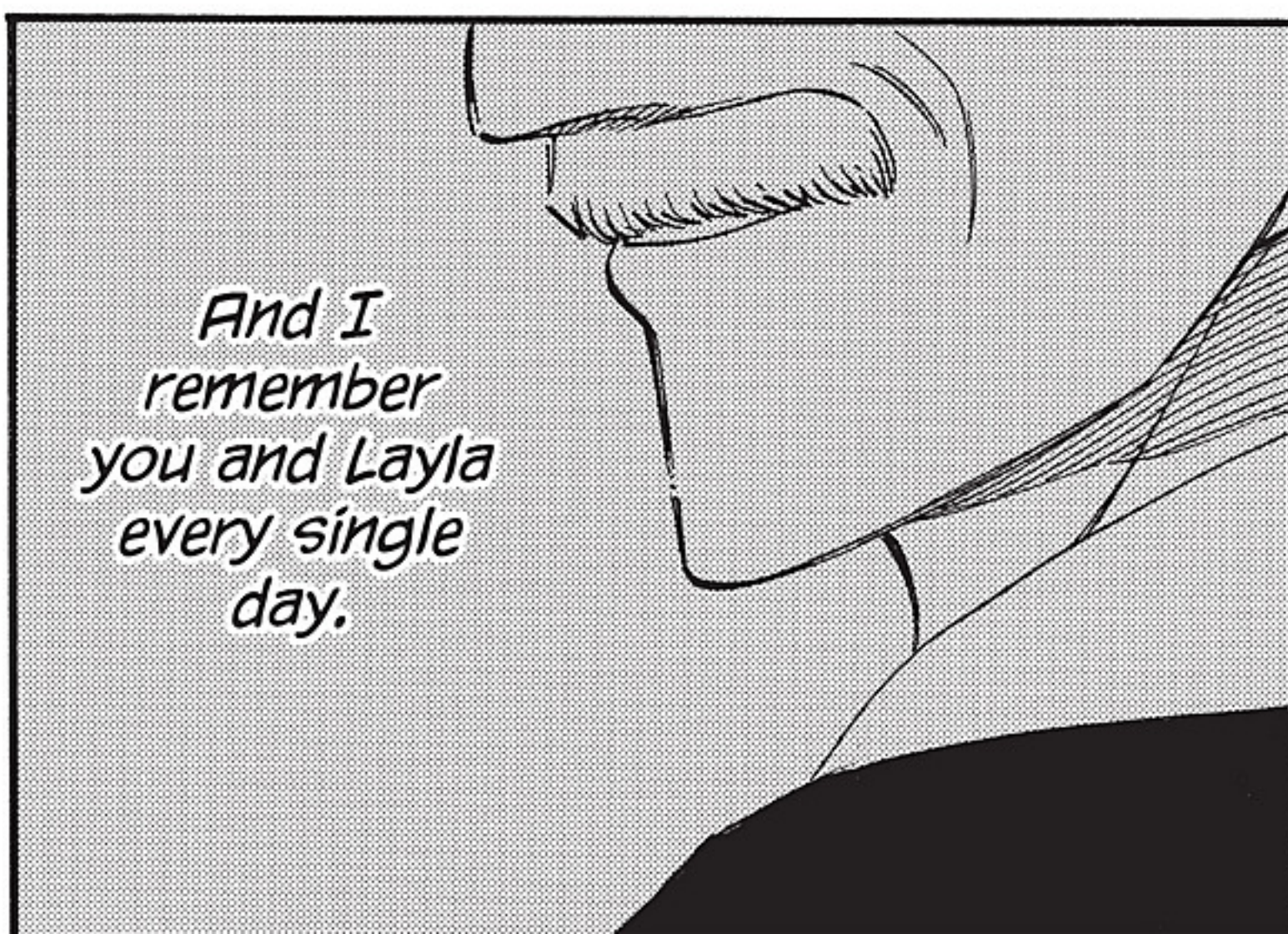
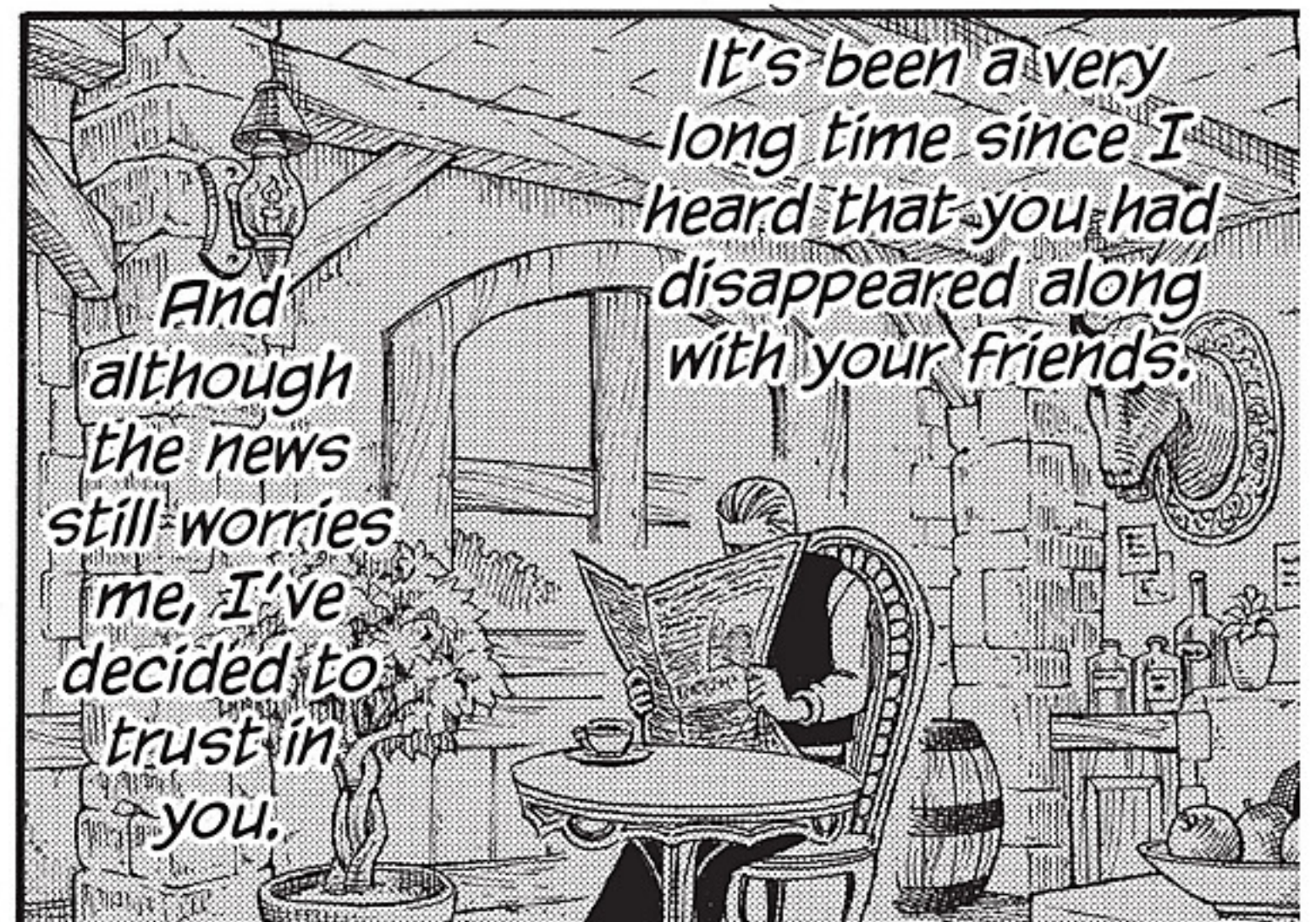
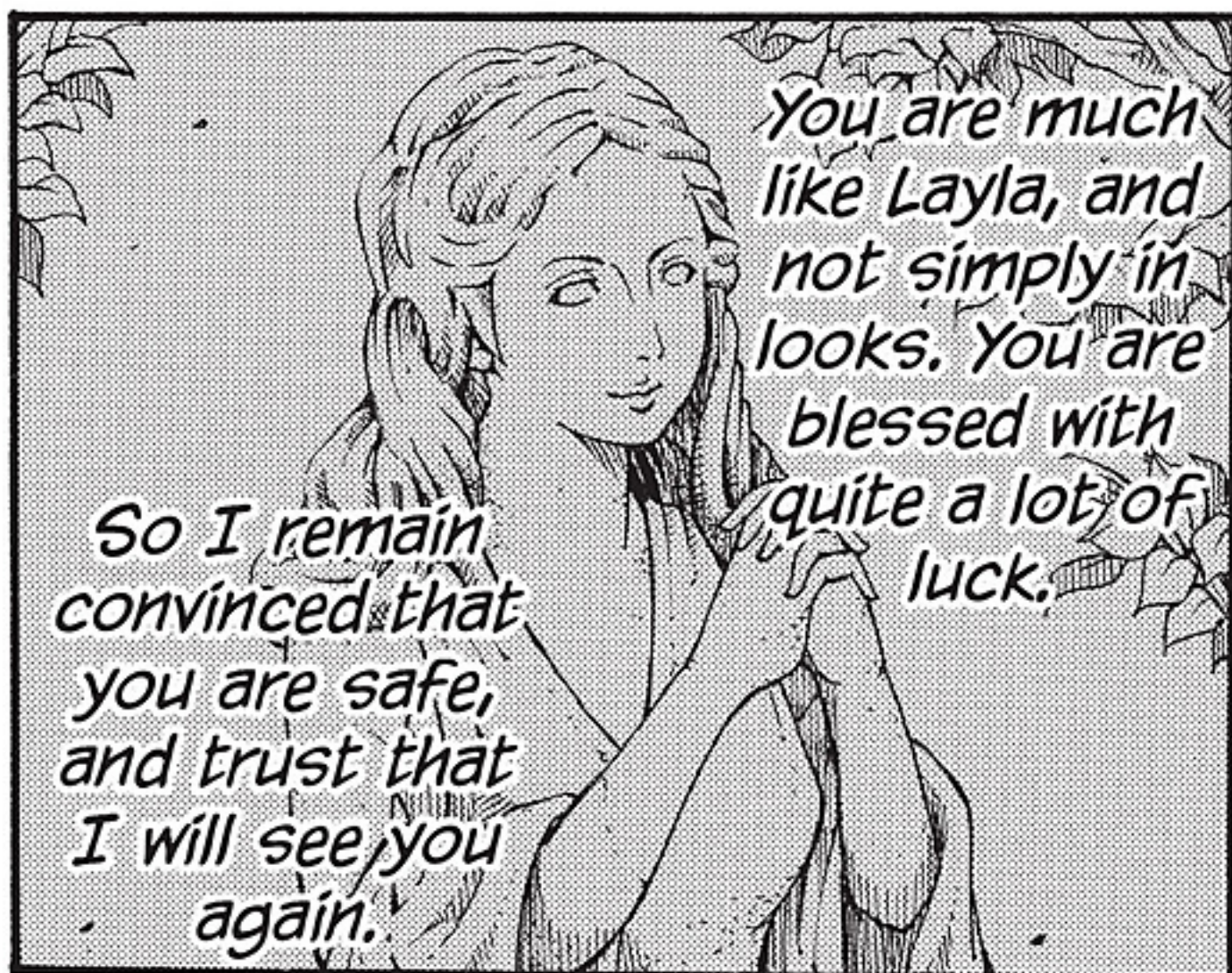
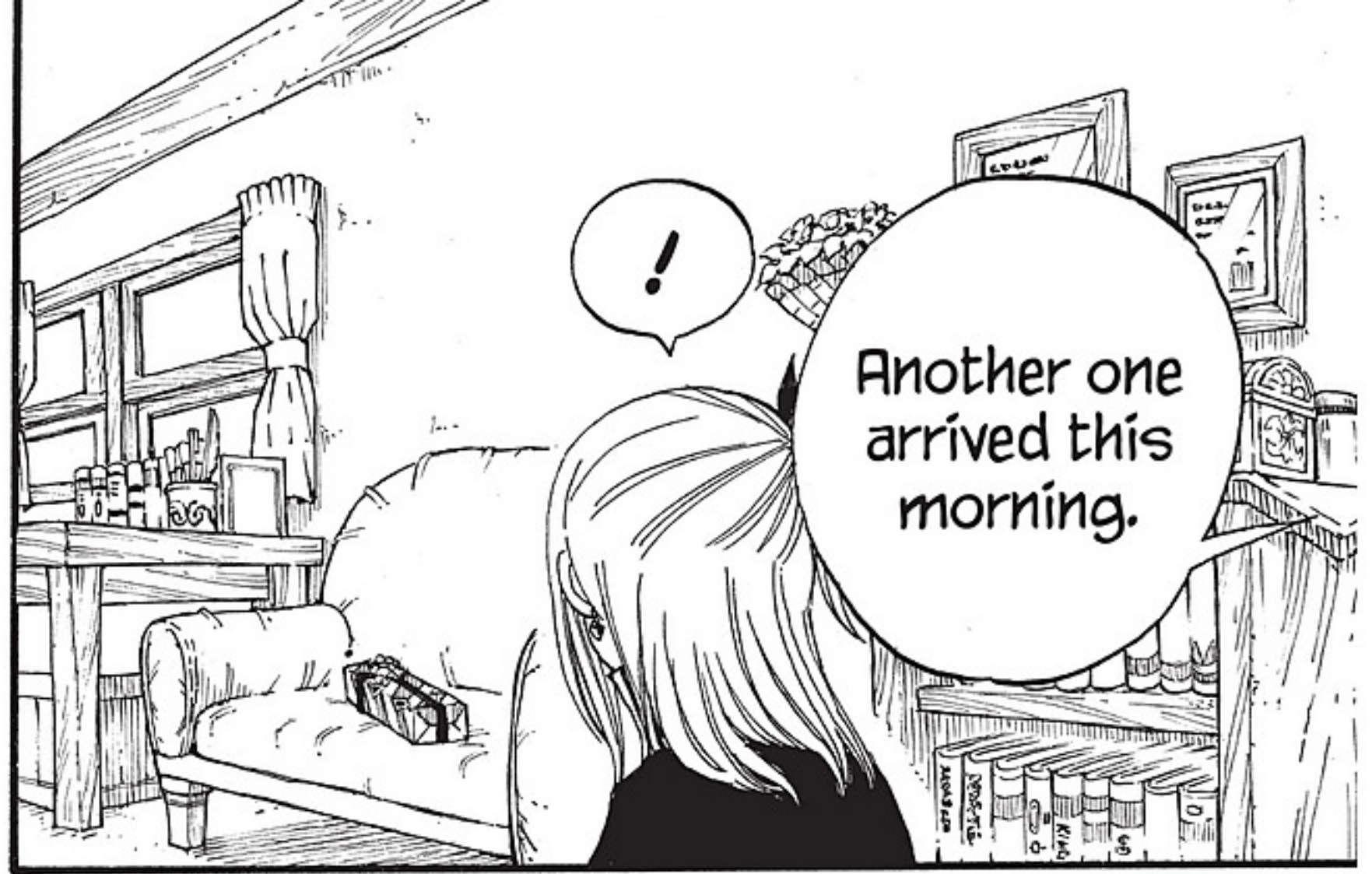


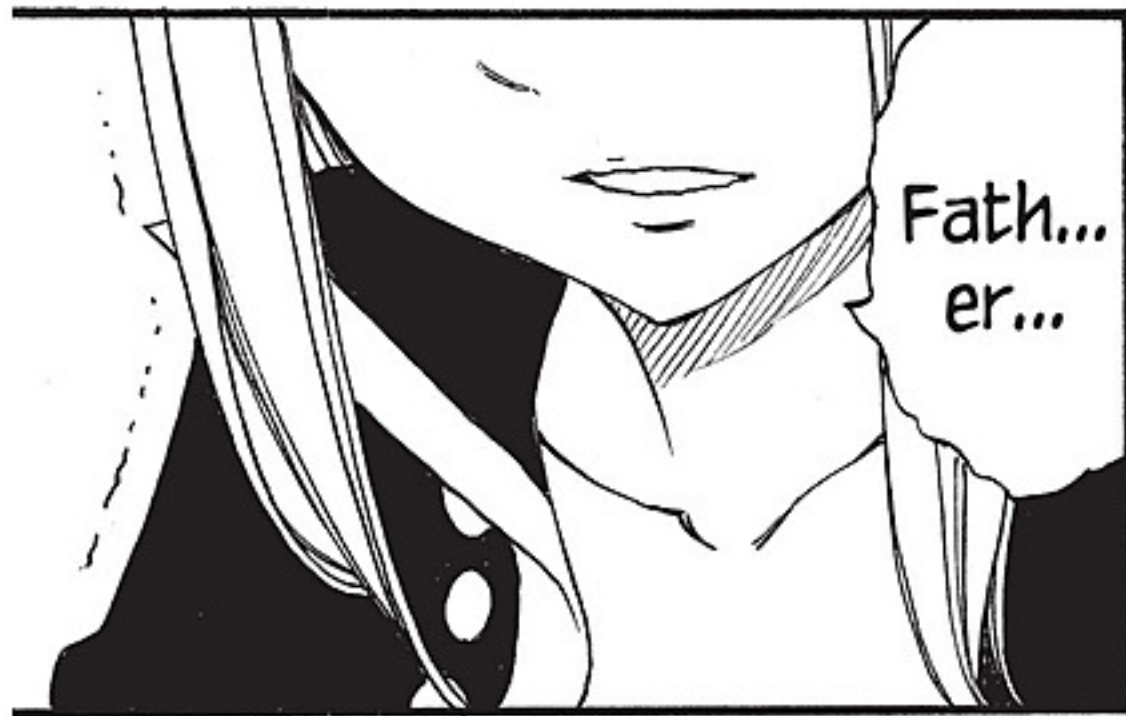






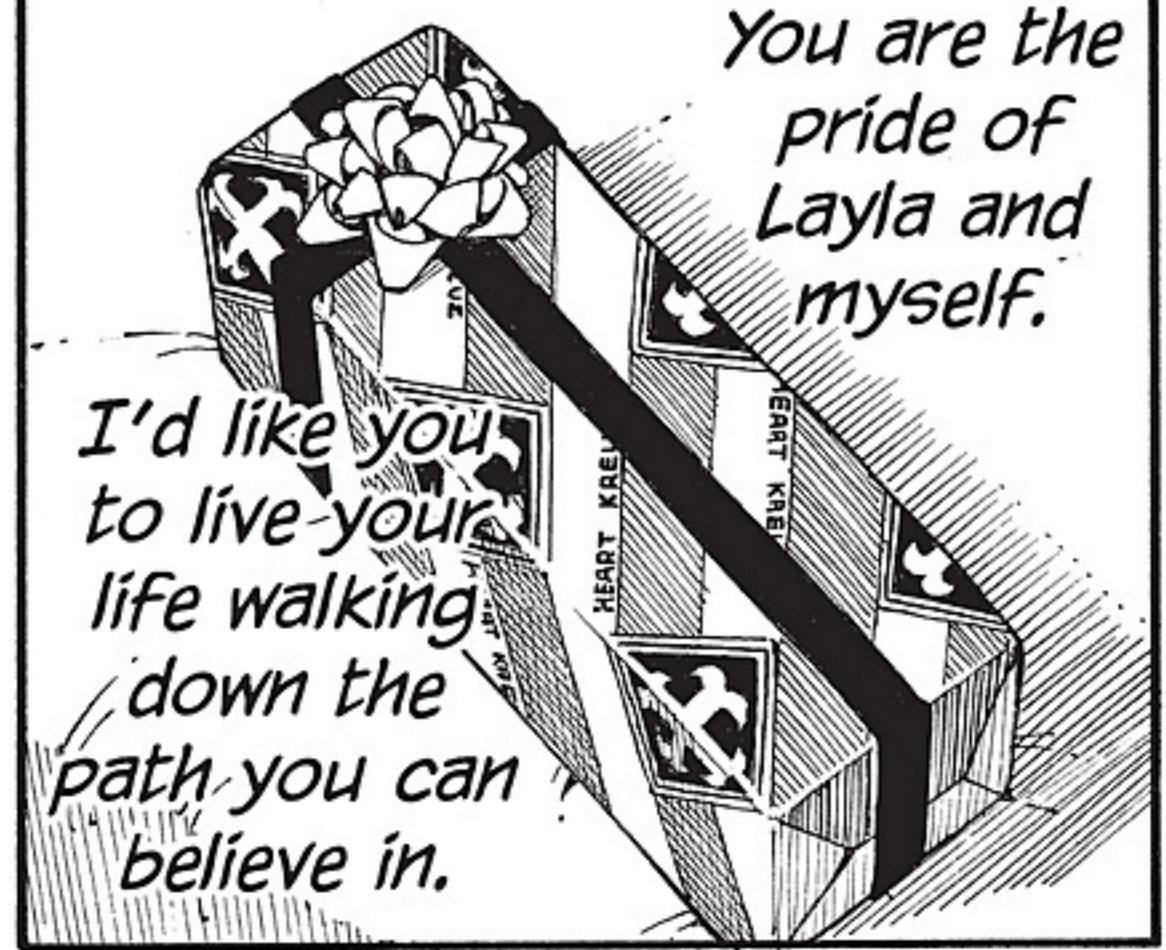






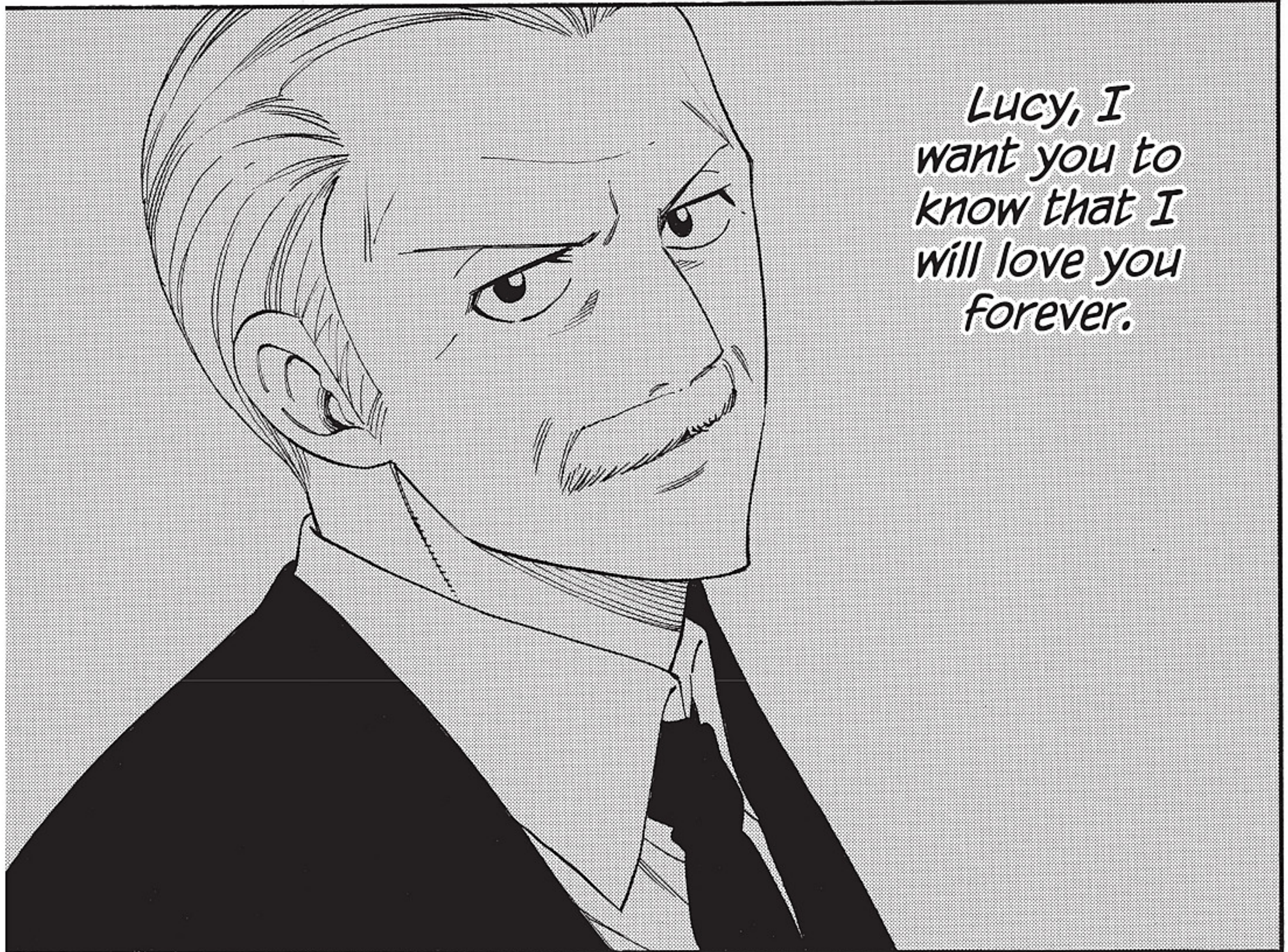
Fath...
er...

*I want us
to meet
again very
soon.*

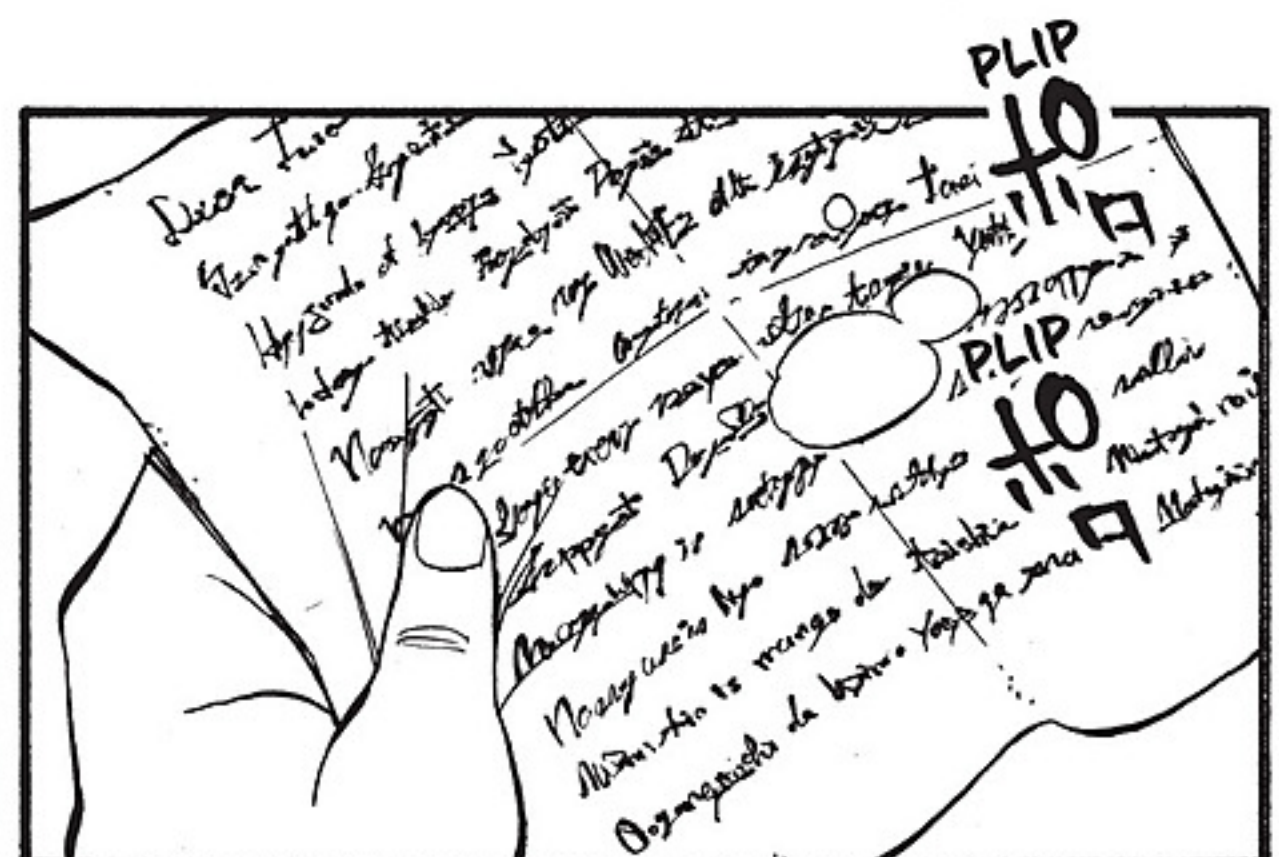
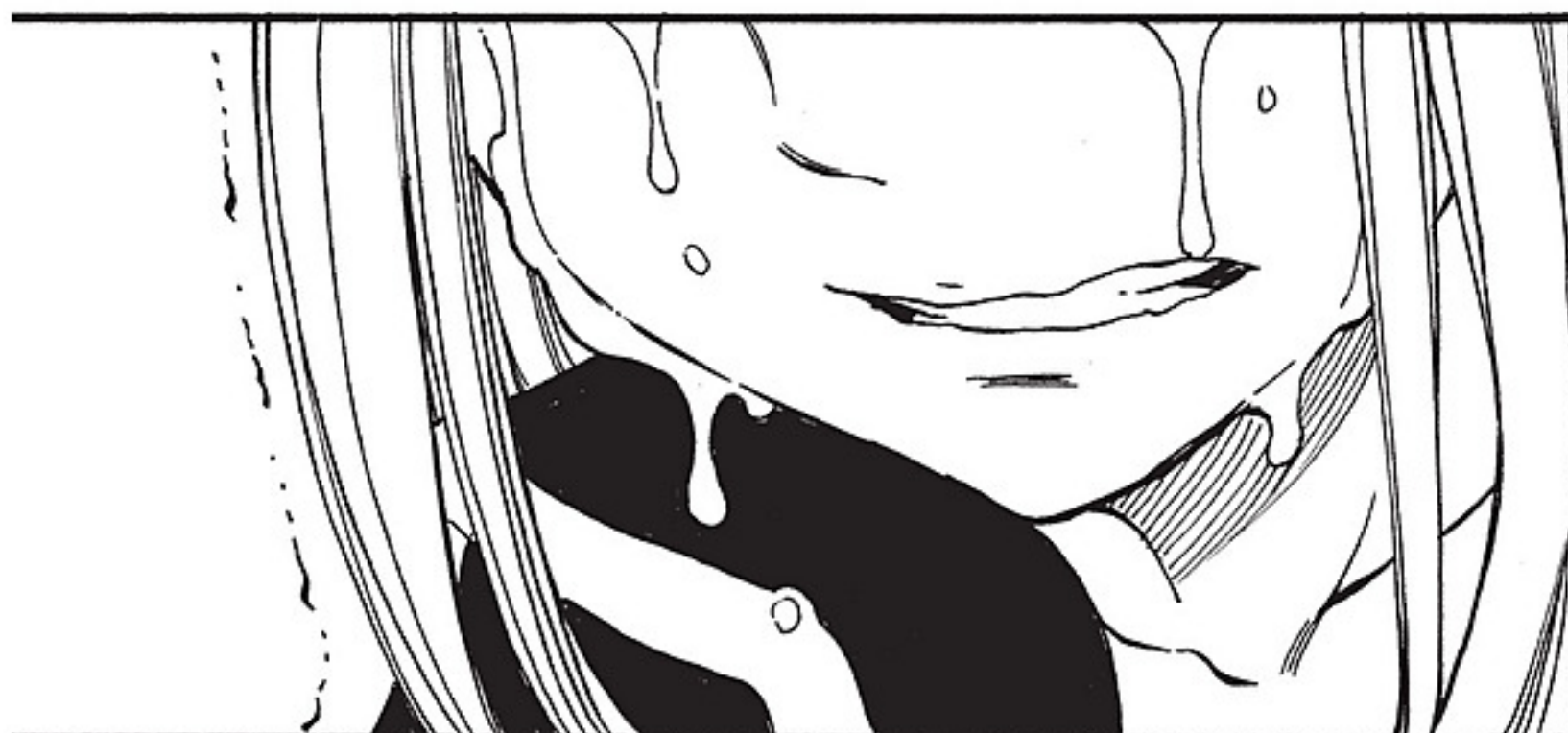


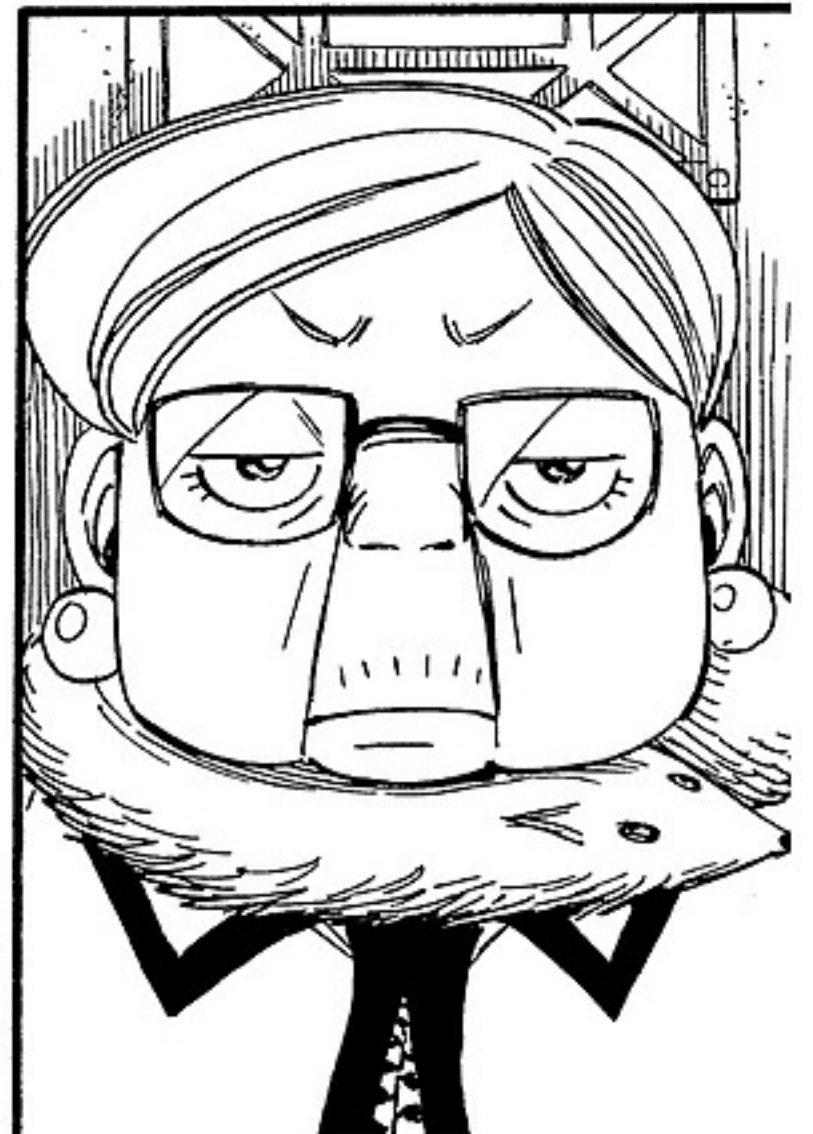
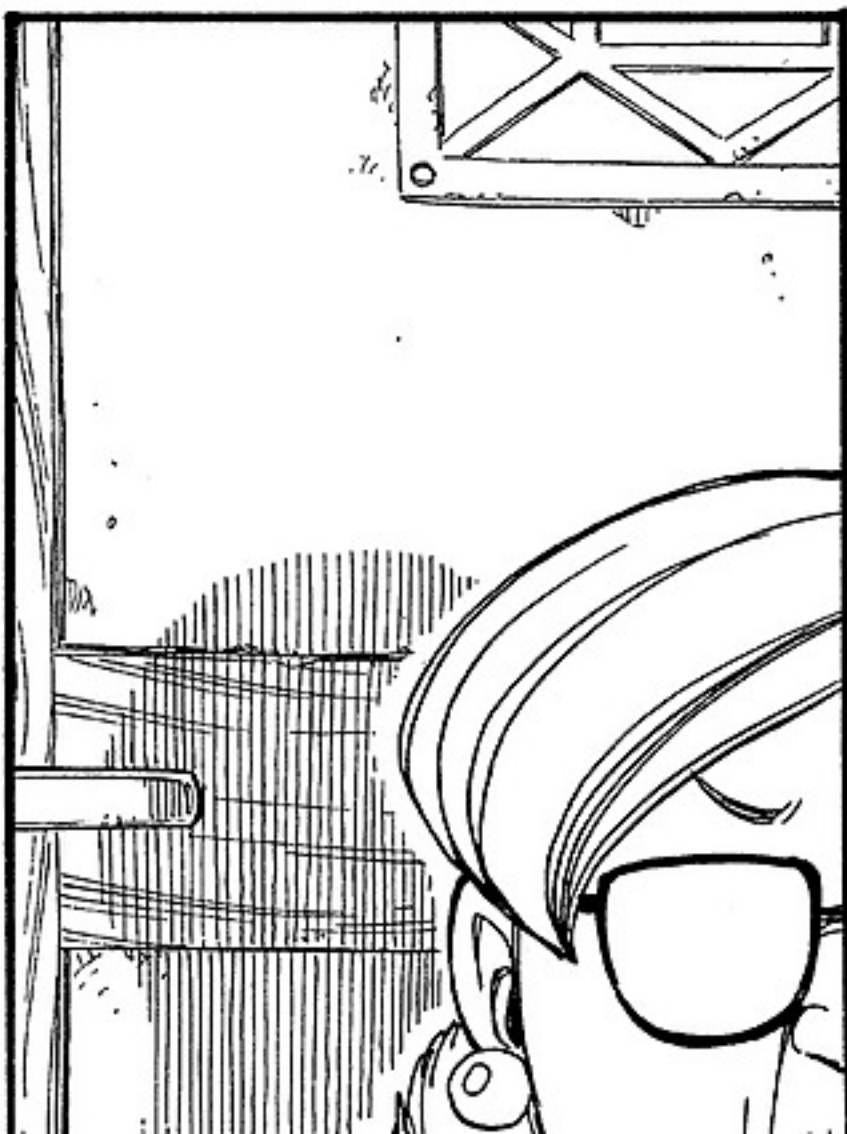
*You are the
pride of
Layla and
myself.*

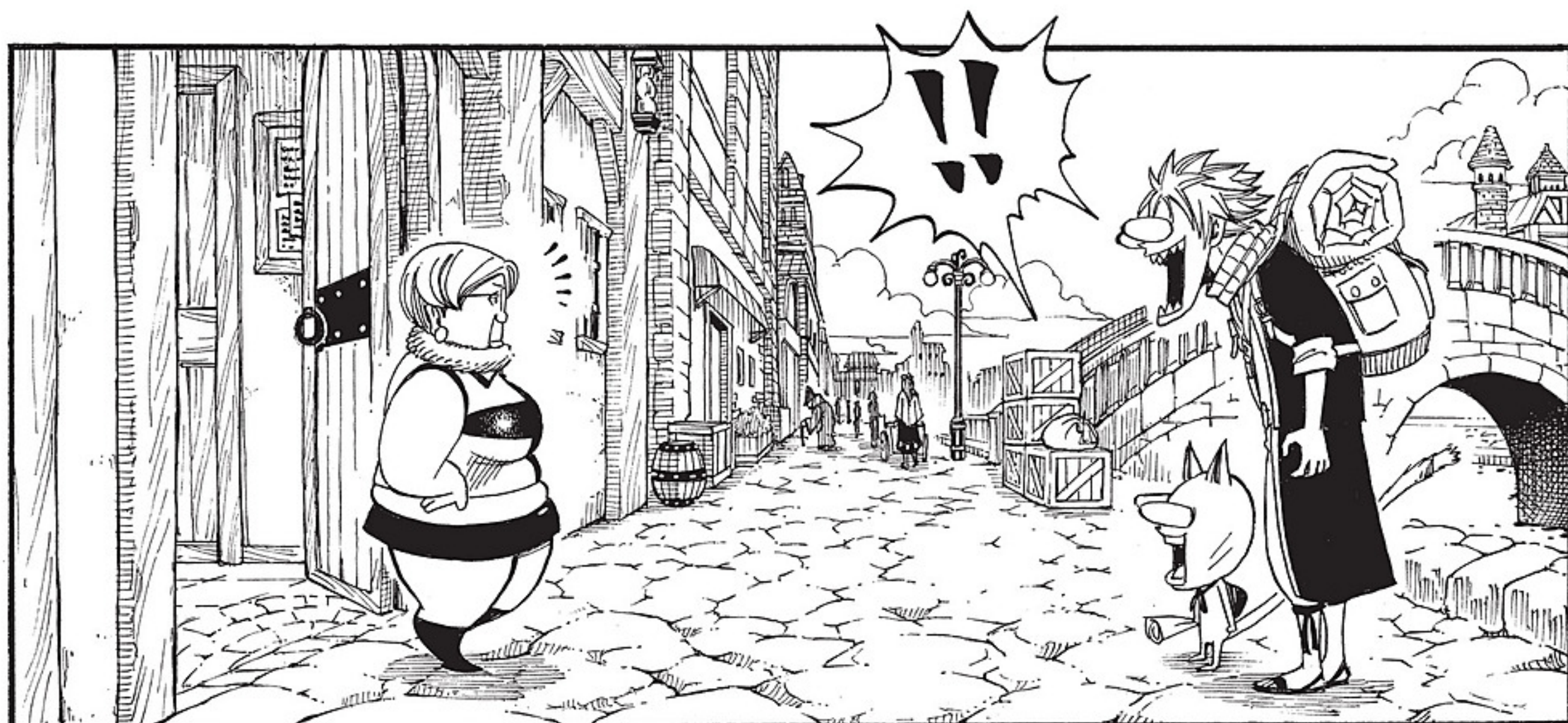
*I'd like you
to live your
life walking
down the
path you can
believe in.*

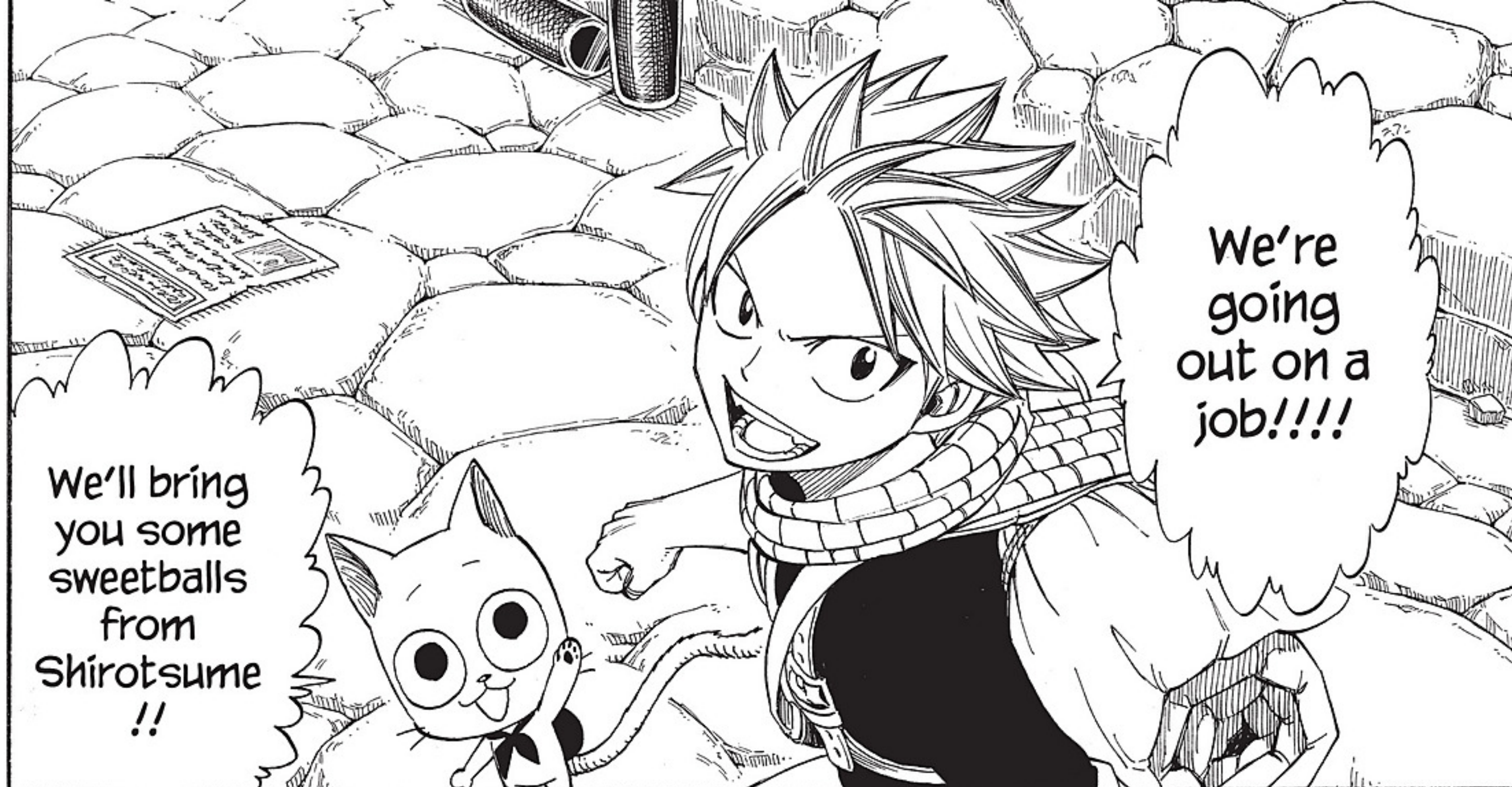


*Lucy, I
want you to
know that I
will love you
forever.*









We'll bring
you some
sweetballs
from
Shirotsume
!!

We're
going
out on a
job!!!!



...was
way too
much,
but...



Seven
years
of lost
time...



...even so,
we've all
decided...

Hold
it!!!

I'm
coming,
too!!!!

...to take
this world
and keep
on living
in it.

TO BE CONTINUED

Afterword

あとがき

And finally the huge Sirius Island chapter comes to an end. It was long, huh? And there were lots of characters! (cries) The arc that follows on its heels is still just an idea, but it looks like it'll have **even more** characters featured in it that I'll have to draw! It's going to be rough! >_<

Now, the story has gone through a huge change, suddenly becoming a "seven years later" story. I'm sure there were a lot of you who were surprised, huh? When you're drawing a very long series, one way to add a fresh sense to the story is to have time advance within it. It's like a spice. It happens in so many stories that I thought I'd try to do it too, but with a slight difference. It's a pretty over-the-top plot twist to have time pass for everyone but twenty or so of the main characters. You don't see **that** in a whole lot of other stories now, do you? But it has its drawbacks, too. As time passes, the main characters usually get stronger and stronger (leveling up), which seems to be a standard for this genre, but in this case, that doesn't happen. (laughs) Everyone around them has gotten stronger, but they've stayed exactly the same. What's with that?!

And so, even though a lot of time has passed, this isn't really the beginning of Part 2 or anything. It's just going to carry on as the same Fairy Tail.

Now, the Japanese release for the next volume, Vol. 31, is going to have a special edition with an anime DVD included again, but in this one... wait for it... I drew the anime storyboards personally!! I draw the manga roughs all the time, but this was totally different, so it turned out harder than I imagined! Up until this last time, they were all stories based on my manga short stories, but this time, it was a wholly original story. There are all sorts of tricks and twists, so I don't want to give anything away via plot summary, but this is a story that answers a lot of questions, like, "What are those scars on Natsu's neck?" that I got in the early days of the series. Thankfully, the studio put in a lot of energy to take my terrible storyboards and turn them into a really high-quality anime! I think you'll find the story to be very fun! Look forward to it!

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor New York, NY 10016

The Fairy Tail Guild is looking for illustrations! Please send in your art on a postcard or at postcard size, and do it in black pen, okay? Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! ♪ Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your illustration!

FAIRY TAIL GUILD d'ART

By sending in letters or postcards you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.



▲Wow!! This is so moe! I don't know what to do! It's too cute!



▲It would have been nice if they could all have had a fun childhood like that.



▲This drawing is really cute! Wonderful!♡



▲Woow!! This drawing's really good!! Apparently Gray is really popular in America, too!!



▲As I thought, this team-up is the best!!

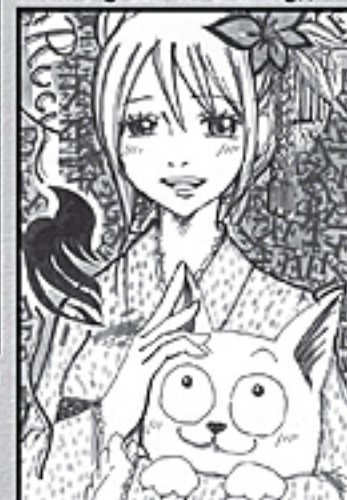
It's the three who are always together!! Oh? Plue is there too!!



Yamaguchi Prefecture, Fuku-chan's Little Brother



▼Mother and child both sent in their pictures! And Mom's great at drawing!!



Yamaguchi Prefecture, Fuku-chan's Mom

REJECTION CORNER

Osaka, Wataru Tsuyuguchi



Gradually, gradually, the arrow hits. What is with how surreal this is?!

Don't know what everyone is saying, but they're all so cute!



Shiga Prefecture, Yuka Takano



▲That's soo good! A two-shot with Gray and Lucy! That's actually pretty rare.



▲Merudy! Yes, she's scheduled to show up again.



▲The big bad wolf is going to eat you! But wait, the big bad wolf is Plue!

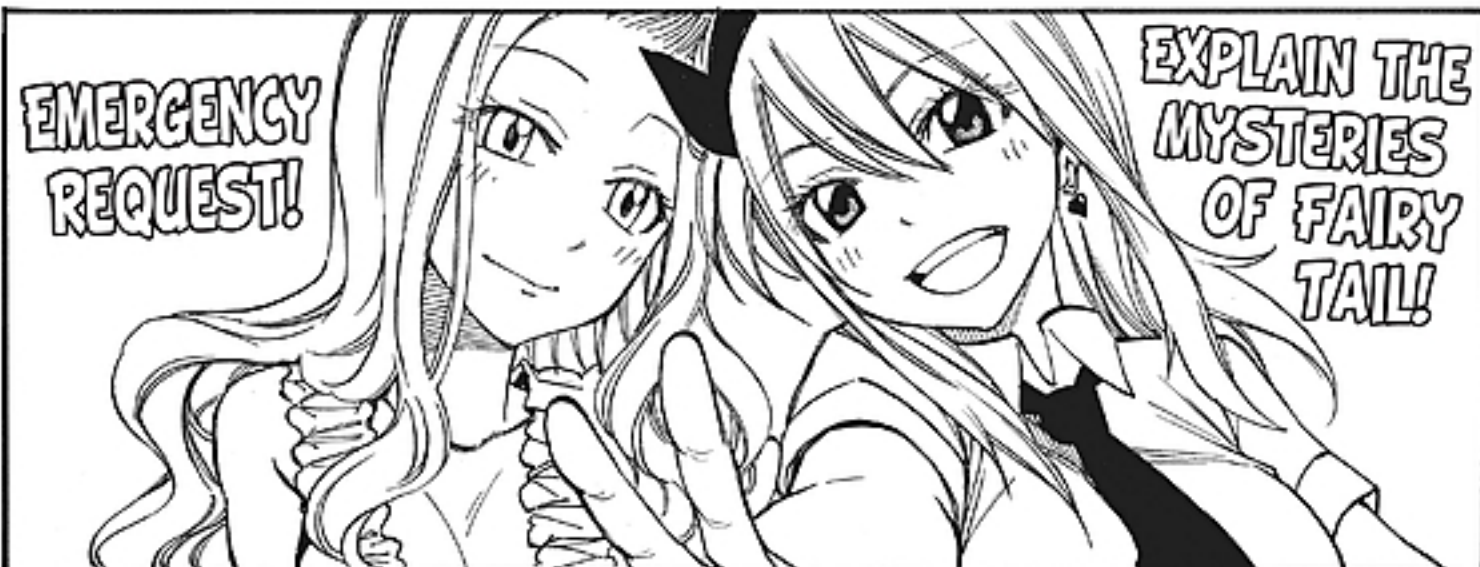


▲An over-the-shoulder Mira-chan. The question corner this time was filled with Mira-chan's secrets!

Whoa, cute!! I'd like to see these come out as mascots!



Hiroshima Prefecture, Kurokawa



At the broken-down guild...
 : Seven years have gone by.
 : Seven whole years, huh?

Lucy: Honestly!! What is this?! What a stupid plot twist!! I'm sure we're going to get a ton of mail with all the mistakes that the readers have caught!

Mira: No, a lot of them are here already.

Lucy: Aw, geez! >_<

Mira: Now, the first question.

What happened to the scene of Natsu crying that Carla foresaw in Volume 24?



Lucy: We got this question a lot!

Mira: It's because the author is coming up with images without figuring out where to put them...

: Y-You're not supposed to say that...

Mira: The plan for this scene was to put it in when Natsu fights Gildarts. Toward the end, Natsu admits that he's been defeated and breaks down. That was where it was supposed to go.



Lucy: Looking at the two of them together, they're completely different!

Mira: By the way, Cana's scene is from Vol. 28, page 42, and the scene with the hand was from Vol. 27, page 61.

Lucy: That was *my* hand, huh? But, come on!! Natsu's scene was just too awful! I can see why none of the readers understood it!

: Now, now... Remember that this was just a "premonition." The future doesn't always turn out exactly that way. We can leave it at that, right?

Continued on the right-hand page.

Continued from the left-hand page.

: That was an impressive way of running away from the problem.

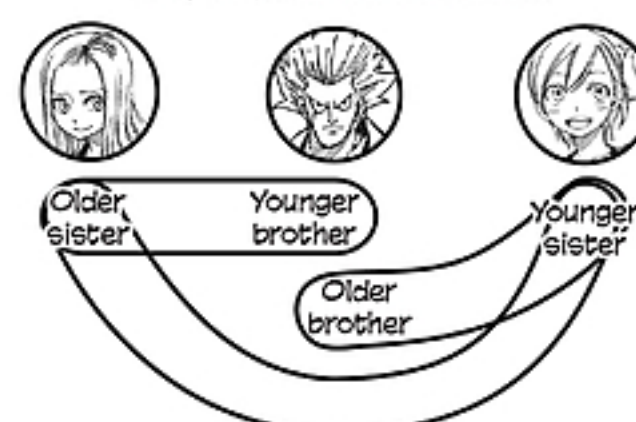
Mira: Now, the next question is partly about me.

Mira-chan, Elfman, and Lisanna are a sister-brother-sister combination, but when you write the kanji for kyōdai ("siblings"), how do you write it to capture the relationships?

In an age where a lot of authors are writing their manga with the foreign market in mind, this question is about as "domestic market" as you can get!

Mira: Let's explain this especially for the sake of those foreign editions!

Lucy: Okay, what this question is about is when the word for "siblings" is written in Japanese kanji, they use the term "kyōdai" which is made up of words for "older brother" and "younger brother." There's also shimai, which is "older sister" "younger sister." But in Mira-san's case...



Th-That does complicate things, huh?

Mira: If we write it, shitei ("older sister" and "younger brother") then we leave out Lisanna, and if it's keimai ("older brother" and "younger sister") then I get left out.

Lucy: And if you just do shimai like we described above, then Elfman is left out. Hmm, that's a tough one...

Mira: I've done a bit of research on this, and it seems that when you have a mixed group like ours, you use all four kanji in the word, keitei-shimai.

: That seems kind of long and unwieldy, huh?

: We could also just not use kanji at all, using the hiragana, kyōdai. Maybe that's best.

Lucy: Finally, we have one more question that concerns Mira-san.

Could you tell me Mirajane's and Elfman's family name?

Mira: Huh? Haven't we ever mentioned it?

Lucy: Seems strange, but I don't think it's ever been officially revealed.

Mira: Our family name is "Strauss."

: Mirajane Strauss, Elfman Strauss, Lisanna Strauss... Really...? I never knew.

: Tswee!! Tswee!!

: And this little one shares the same family name too! Alexandria Strauss!

: So you've taken that weird-voiced dog... and officially made it your pet...

FAIRY TAIL 30

フェアリーテイル

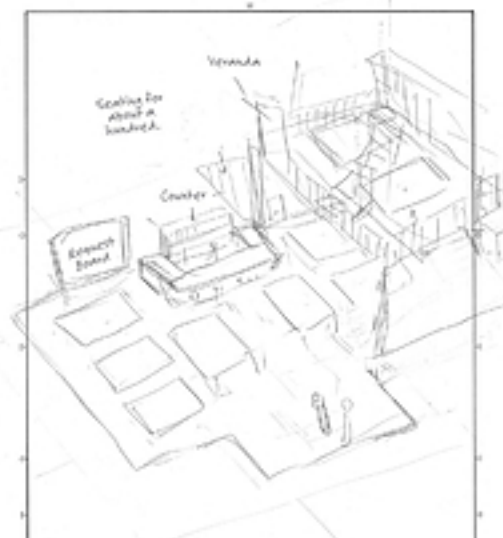
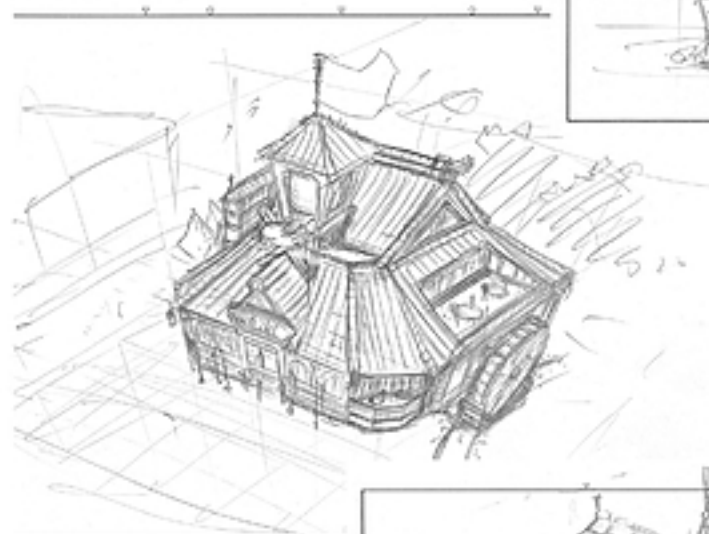
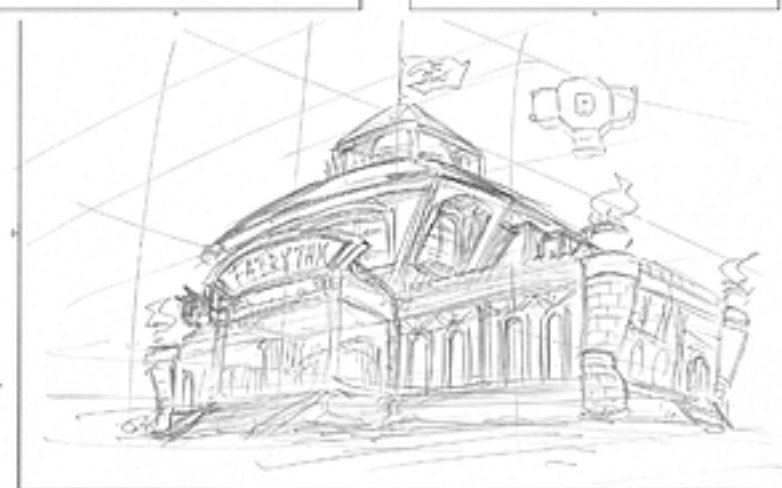
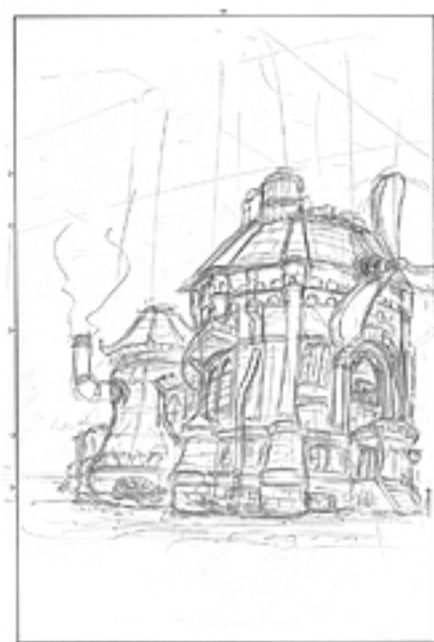
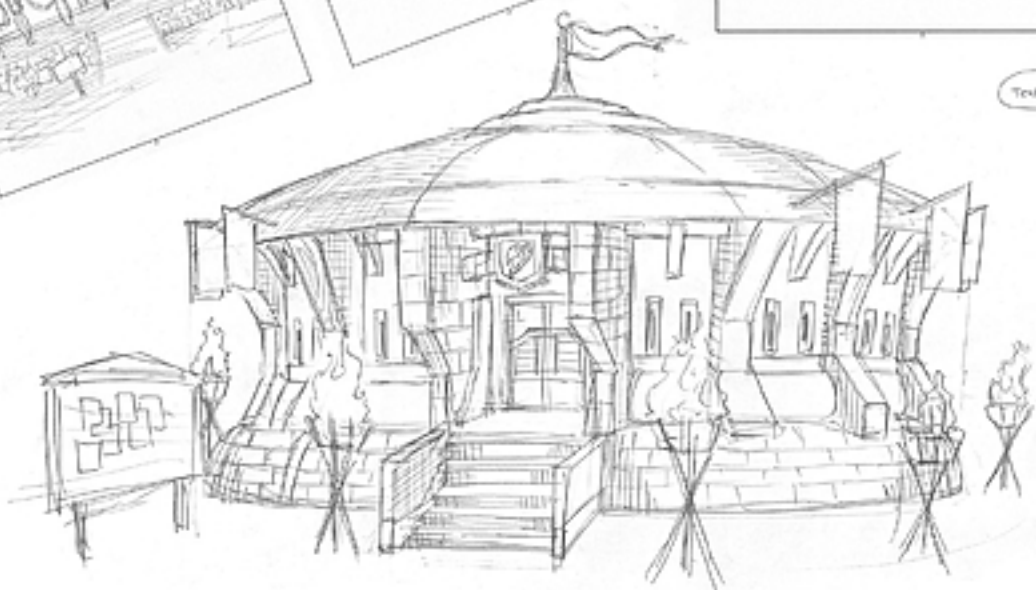


The small
twin
It looks like inspiration from the
printed manuscript.



Two style

HIRO NISHINA



FROM HIRO MASHIMA



I went to a signing in New York City, and these are a few of the Fairy Tail cosplayers who were nice enough to meet me there. There were plenty more! In fact, so many people came out to see me that words can't express my gratitude. I've gotten a renewed enthusiasm to make sure my stories are aimed at the whole world! Also, that Ichiya costume looked almost too good! (laughs). I'm so happy there are people in America who see how good that character is.

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Page 159,

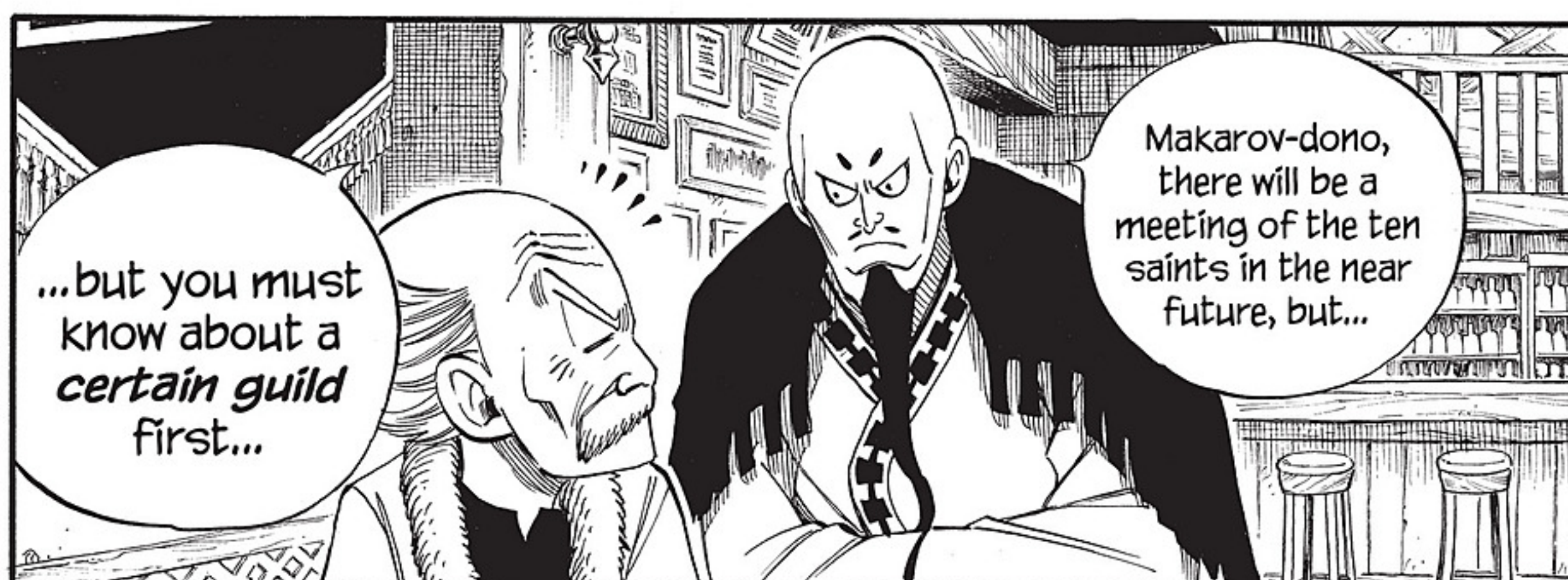
5,880,000 Jewels

As we mentioned back in the notes of Volume 1, the currency in Earth-land is based essentially on Japanese currency, and a quick way to get an approximate idea of how much they're talking about in dollars is to take off the final two digits (the final two zeros). Then, you would get the number "58,800," or something on the order of about \$60,000. Not as bad as six million, but still way out of the range of a teenager like Lucy.

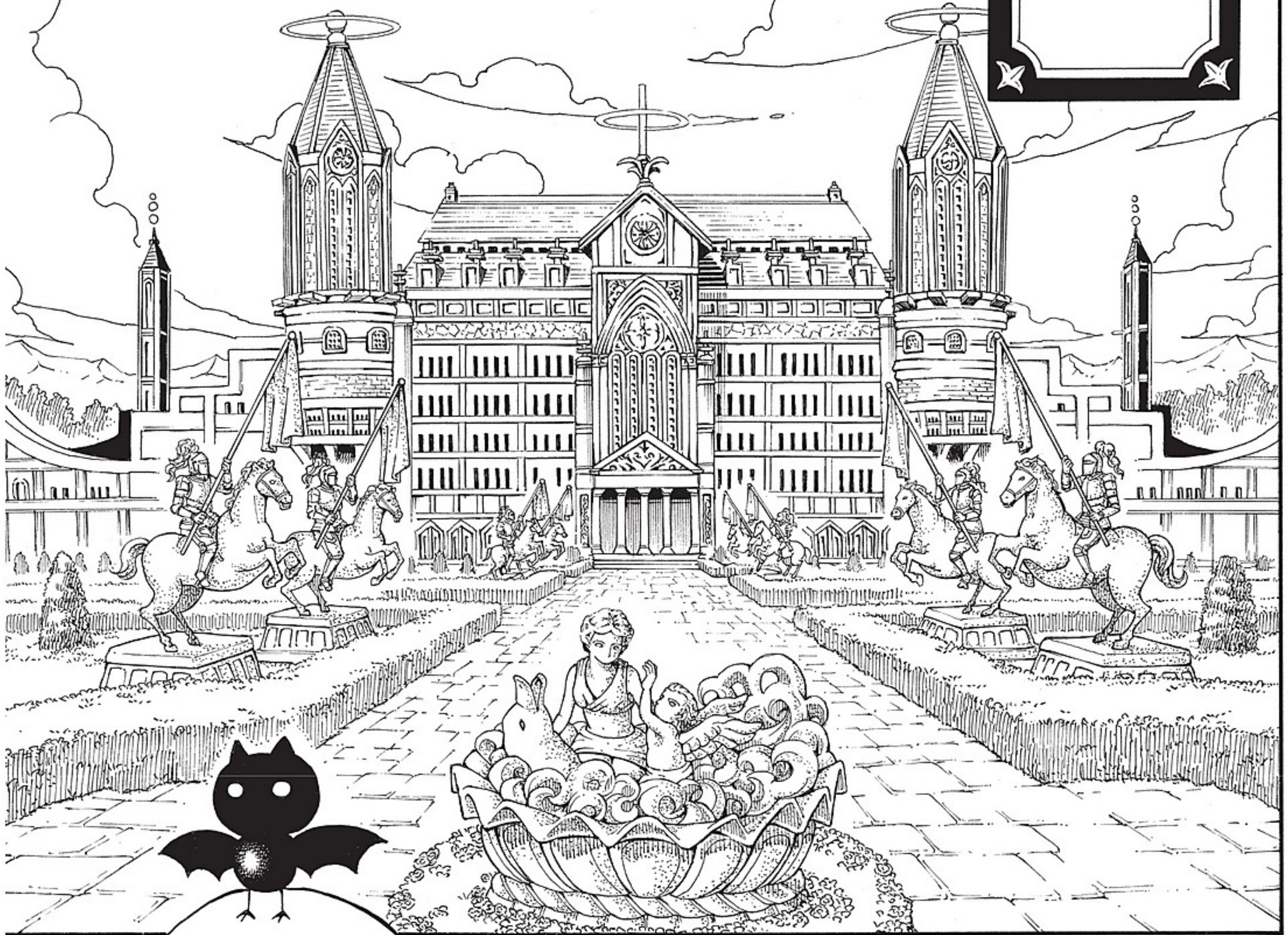


Page 162, -dono

As mentioned in previous notes, *-dono* is an honorific much like *-sama*, one that indicates a lot of respect. But it is also somewhat archaic and is not used in everyday society. It gives off a sort of medieval feel.



The Magic
Council,
Era.



More
importantly,
have you
heard the
news yet?

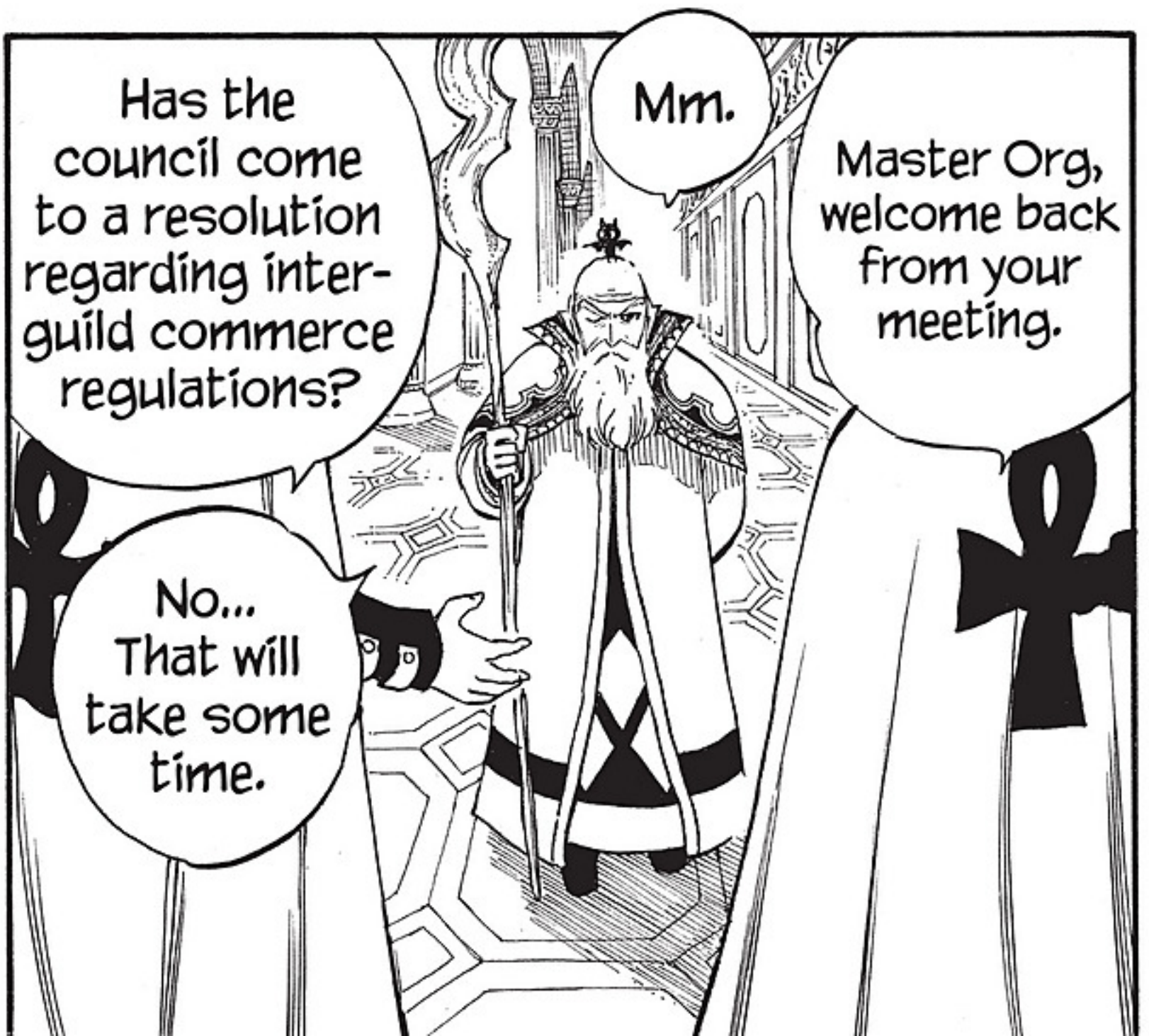
**MAGIC
COUNCIL**
ELDER ORG

Has the
council come
to a resolution
regarding inter-
guild commerce
regulations?

No...
That will
take some
time.

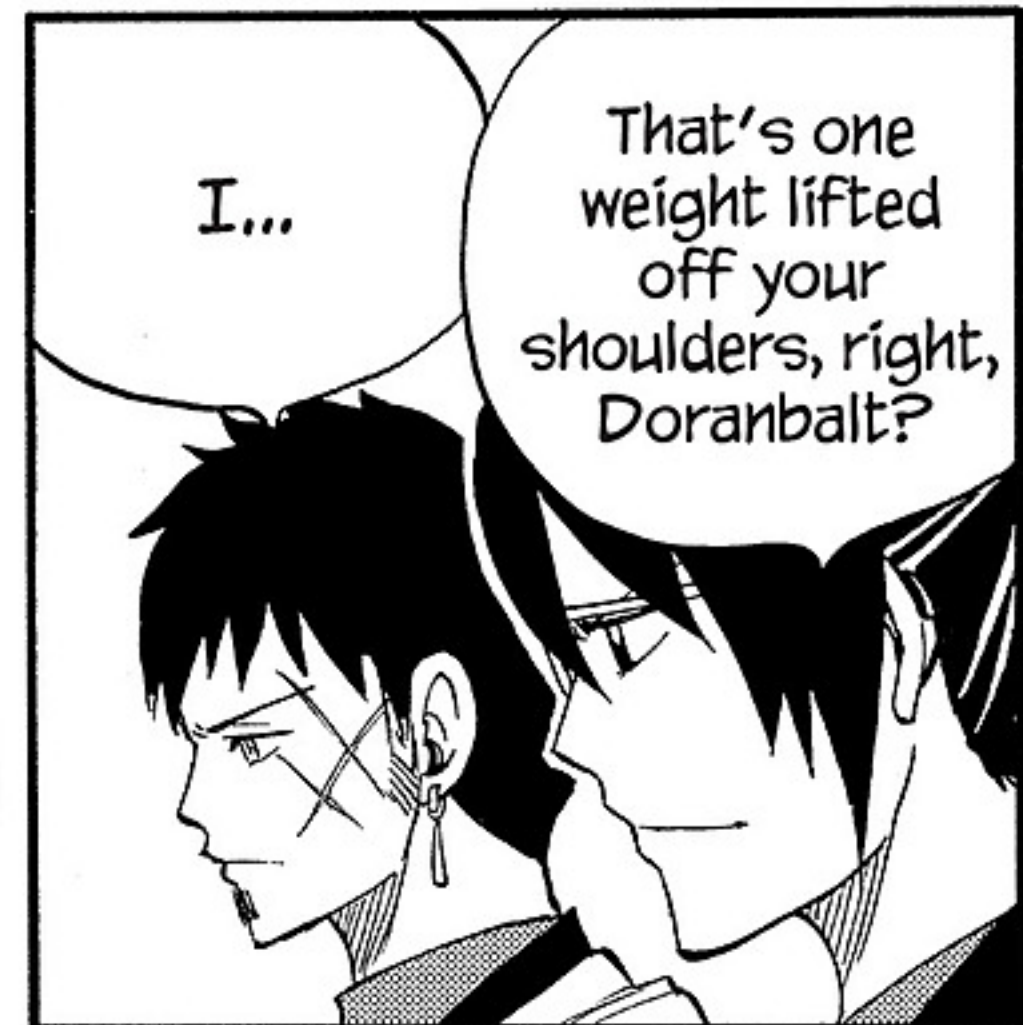
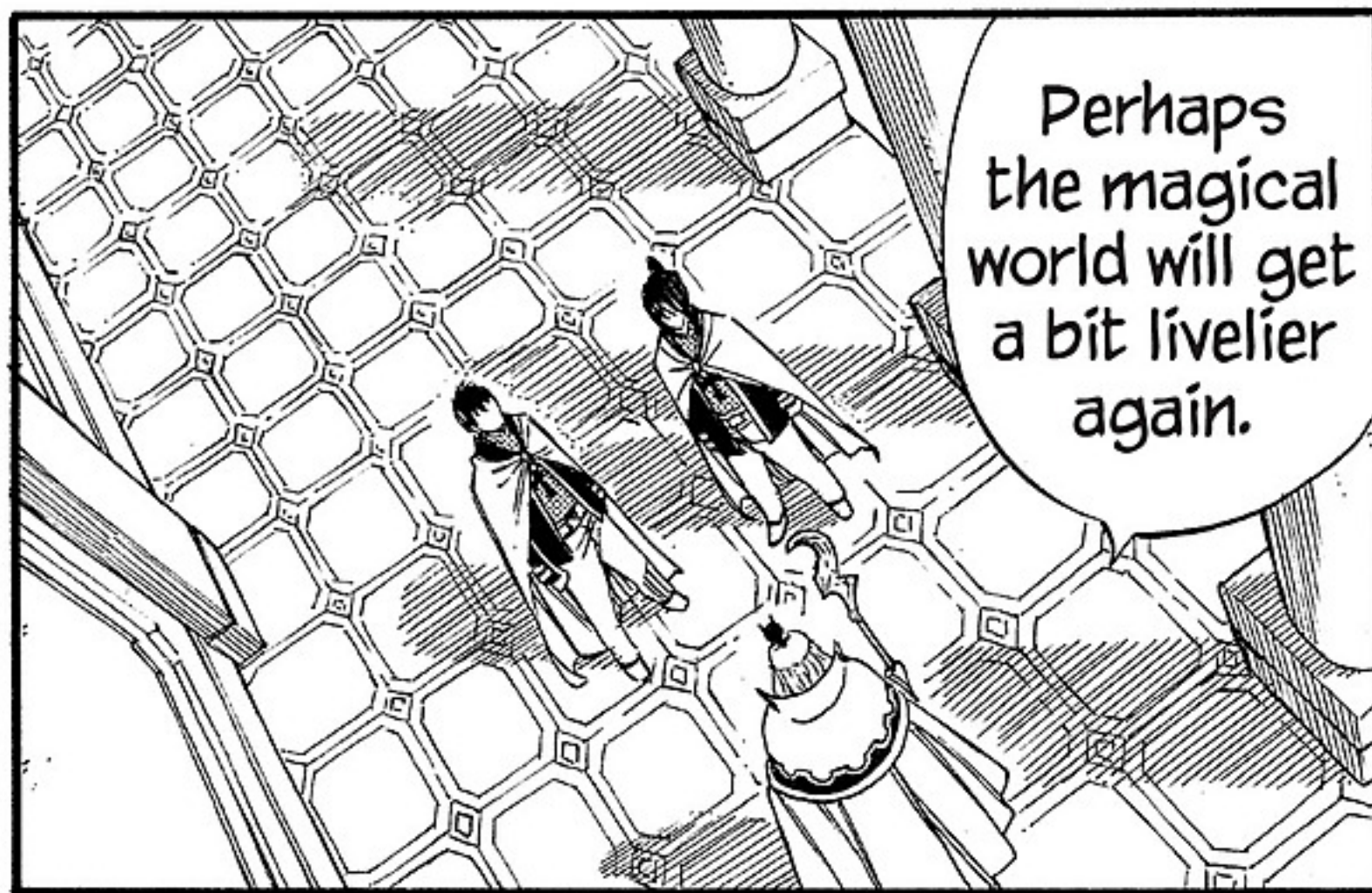
Mm.

Master Org,
welcome back
from your
meeting.



Preview of *Fairy Tail*, volume 31

We're pleased to present you with a preview from Fairy Tail, volume 31, which will be released digitally in June 2013 and in print in September. See our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for more details!





These seven years have been too quiet.



Forgive me... we still have no idea where they went.

Perhaps we ought to expand the Reconnaissance Corps.



Same for what's left of Grimoire Heart.

None have any information on Zeref or Aenologia.

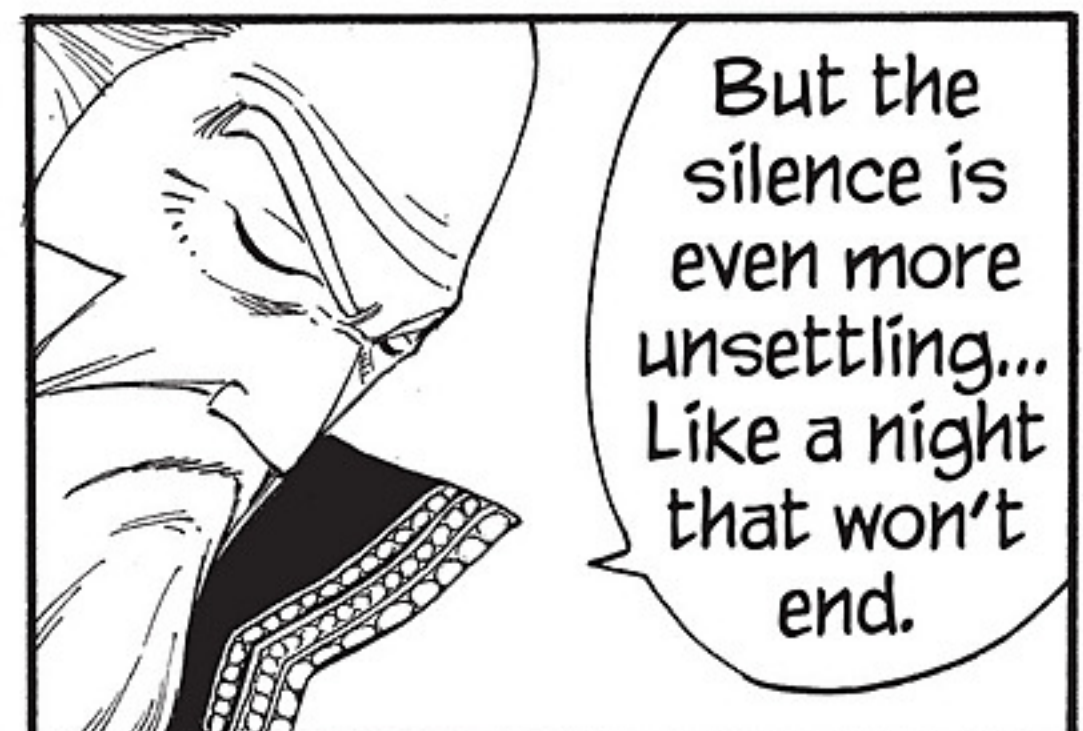
We've been keeping an eye on the progress of Saber Tooth...

...but Tartarus has kept a low profile.

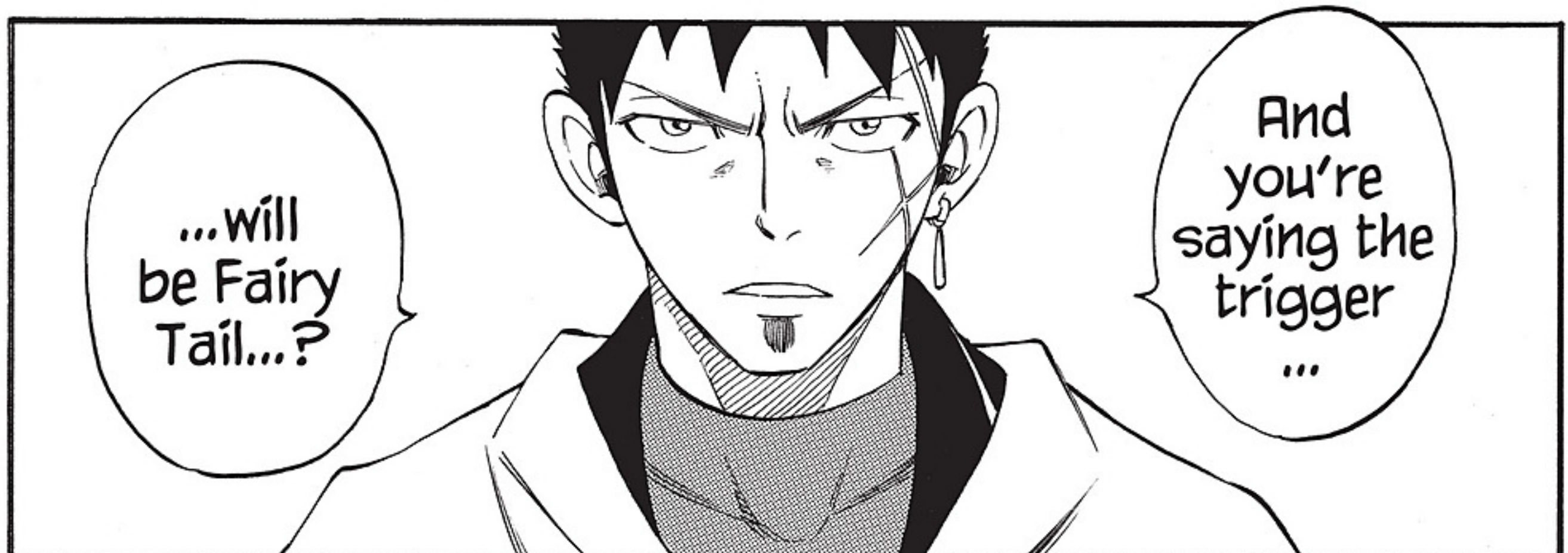


Perhaps it will signal a new dawn for the magical world.

I think it's about time for daybreak.



But the silence is even more unsettling... Like a night that won't end.



...Will be Fairy Tail...?

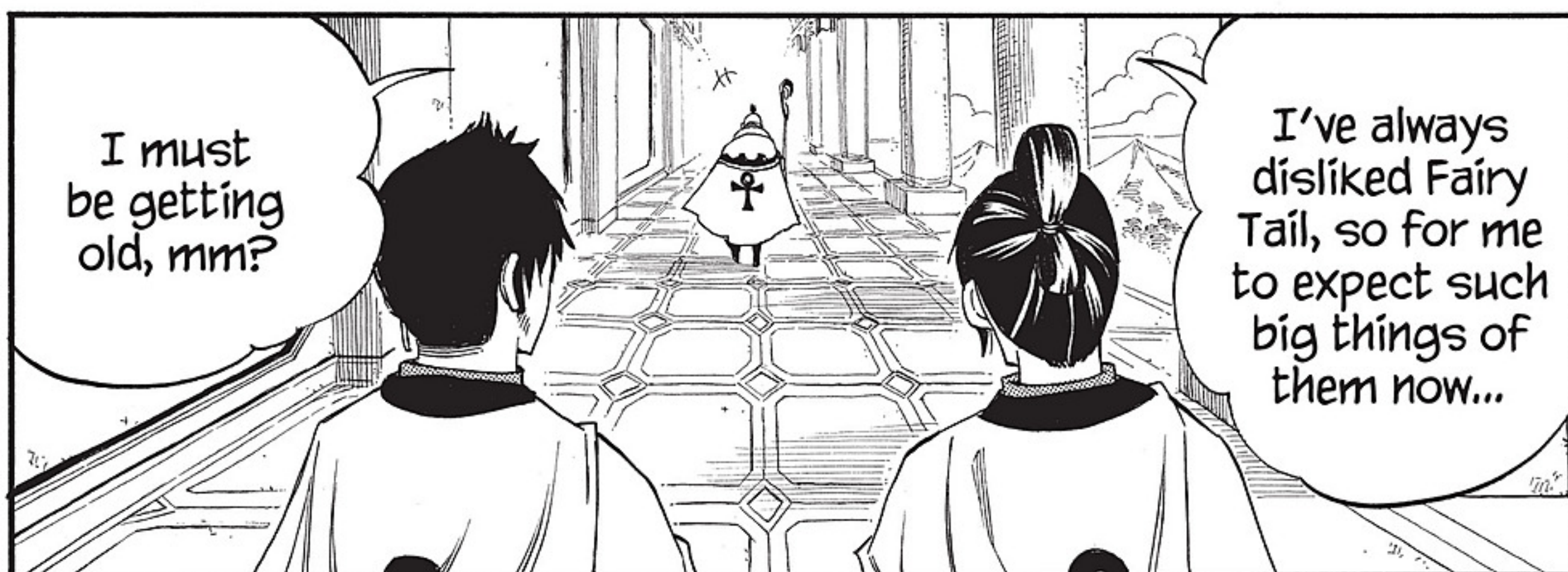
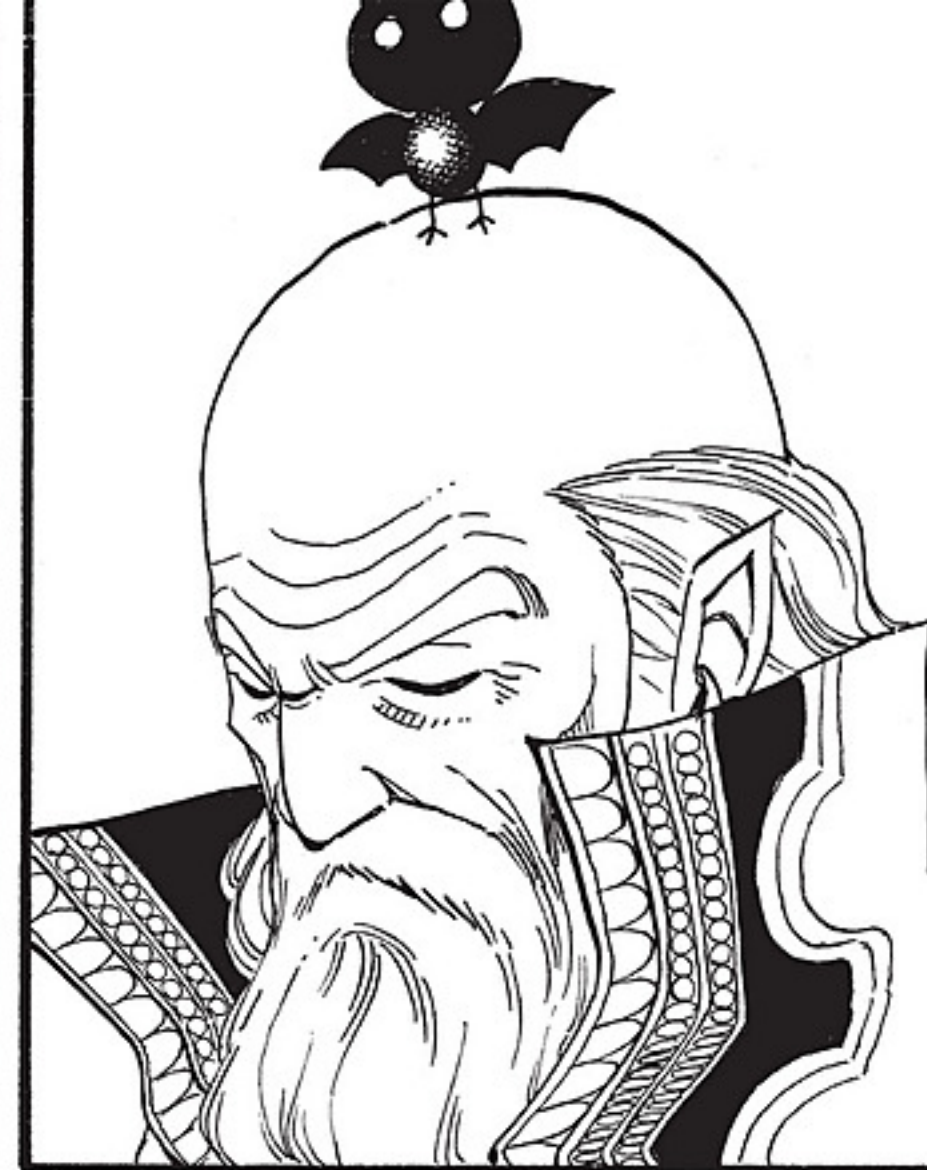
And you're saying the trigger ...



Fwah
ha ha
ha!

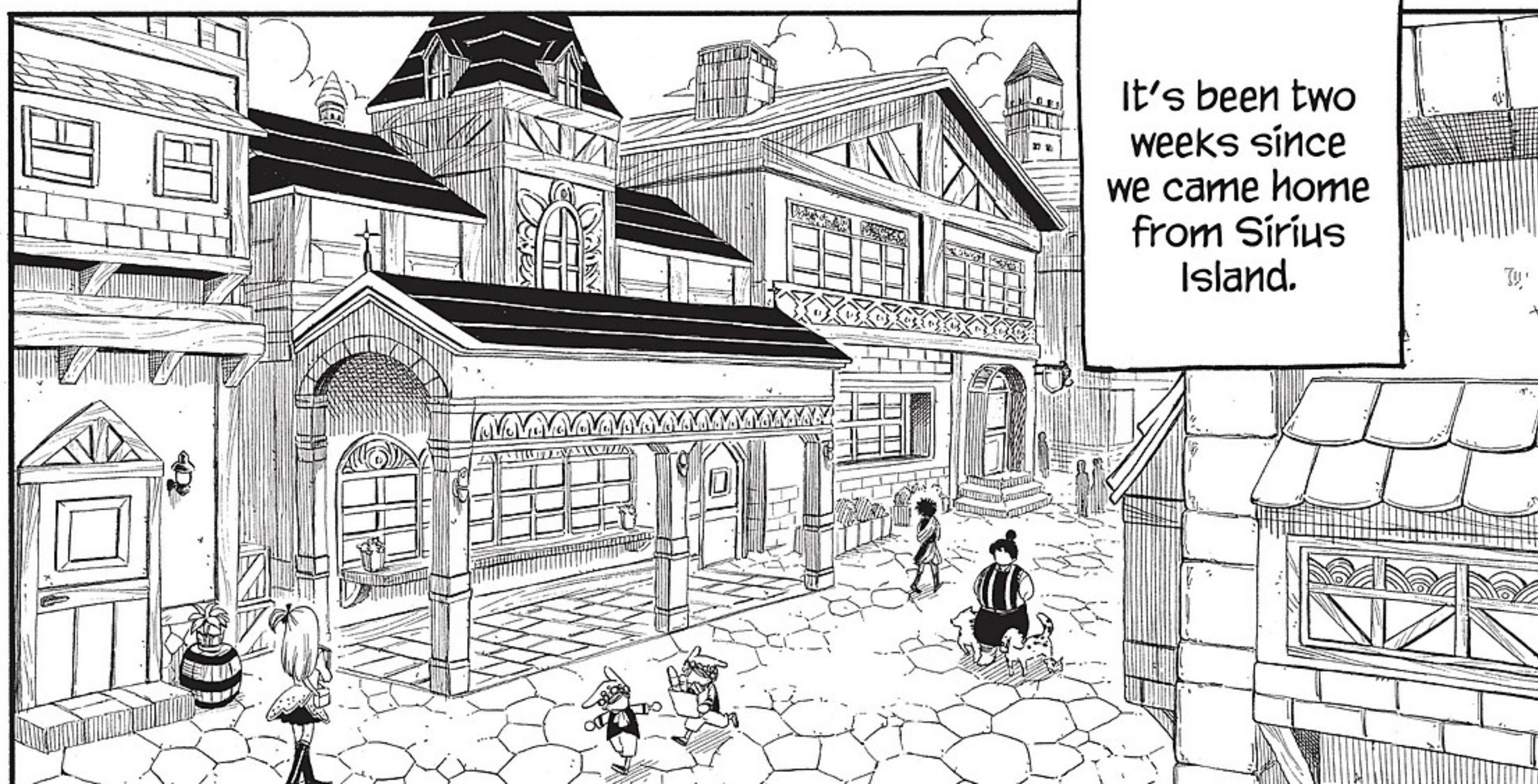
?!

?!

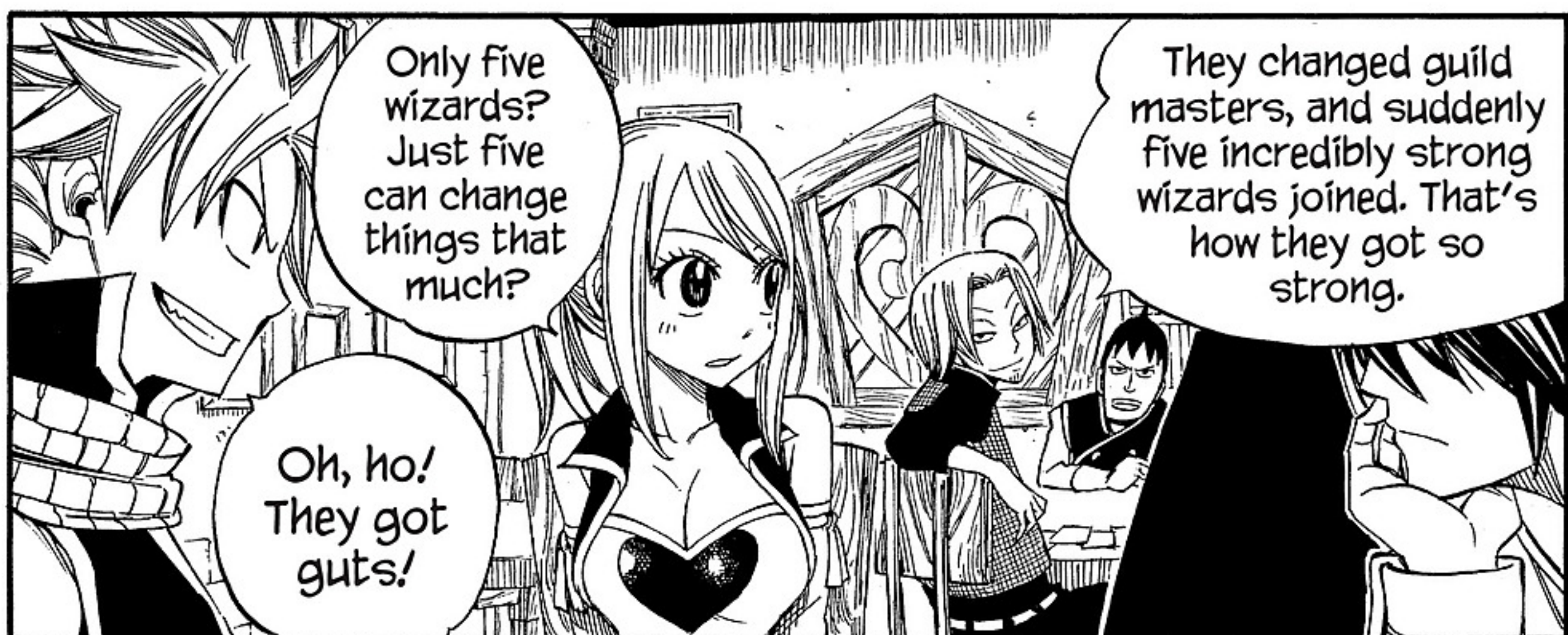


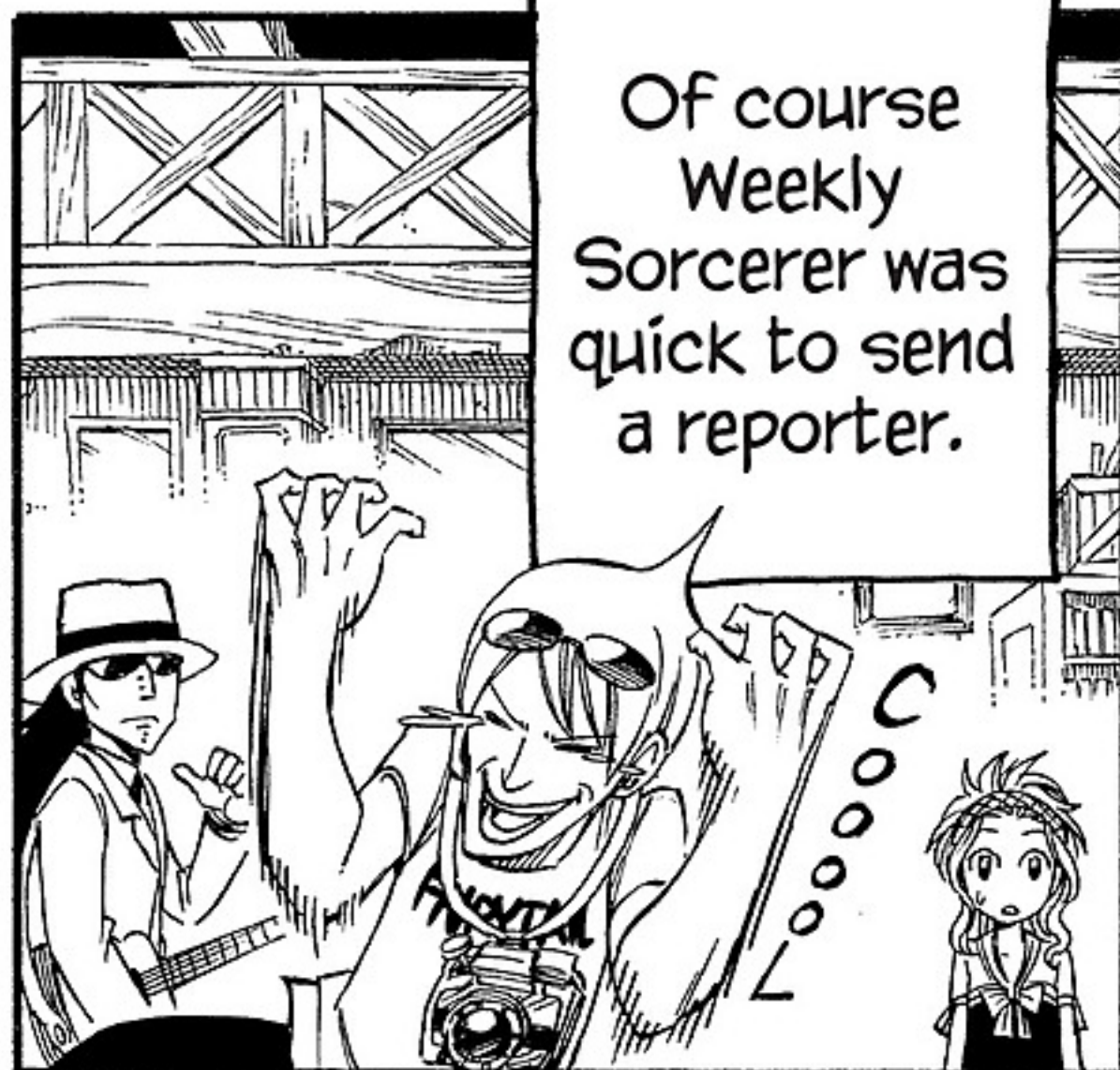
I must
be getting
old, mm?

I've always
disliked Fairy
Tail, so for me
to expect such
big things of
them now...

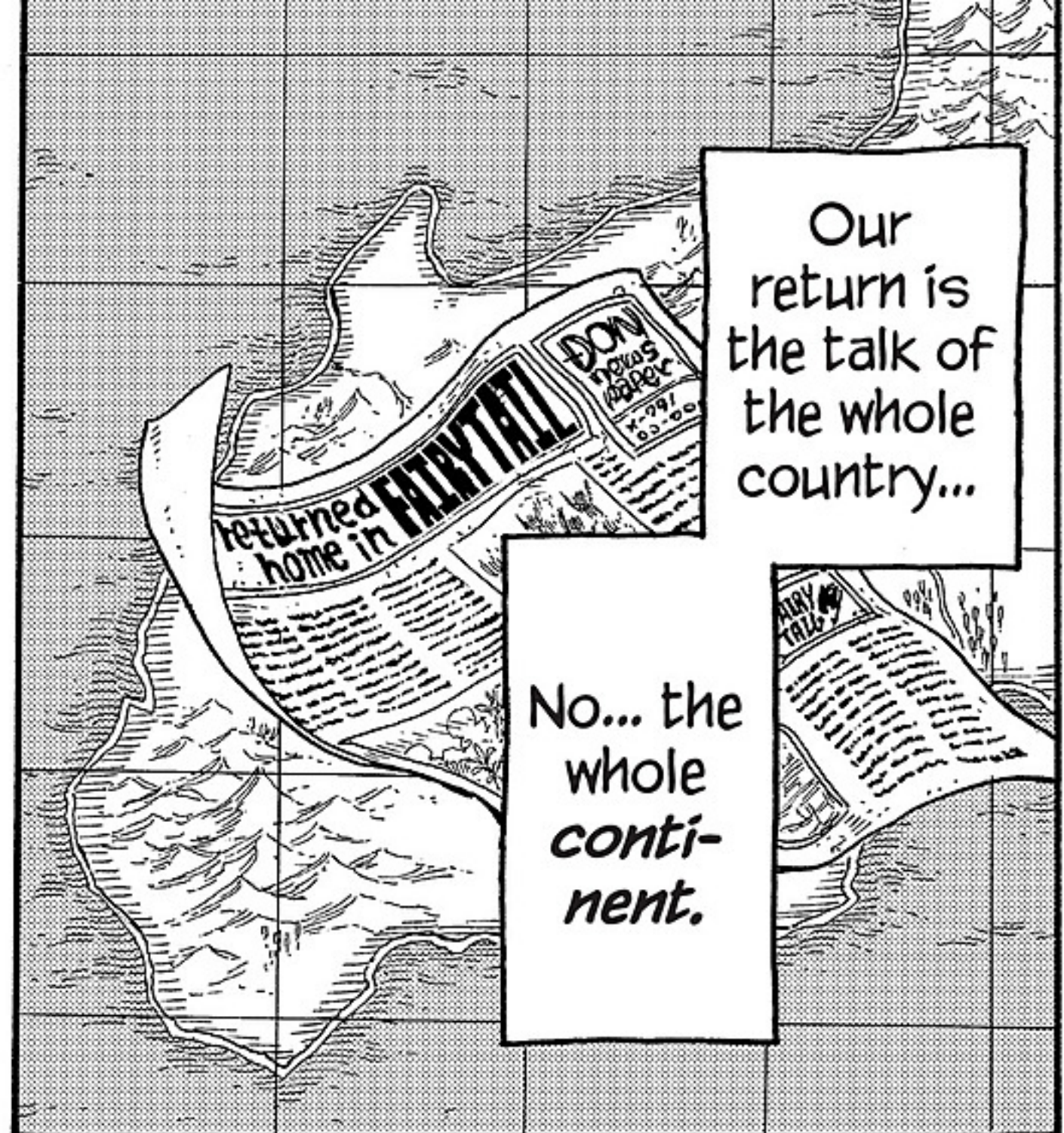


It's been two
weeks since
we came home
from Sirius
Island.





Of course
Weekly
Sorcerer was
quick to send
a reporter.



Our
return is
the talk of
the whole
country...

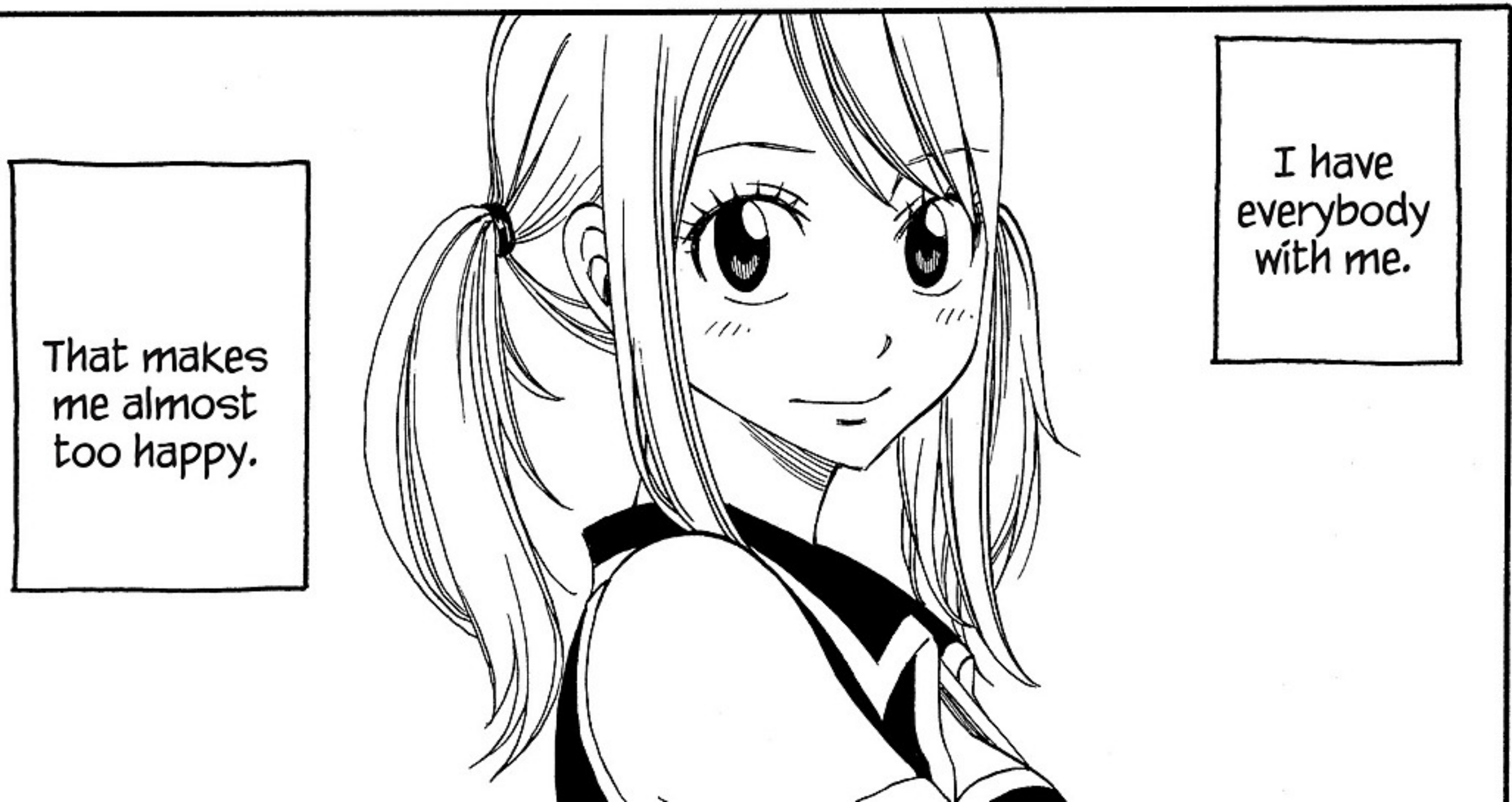
No... the
whole
conti-
nent.



And little by
little, I'm
recovering
from the
news about
my father.

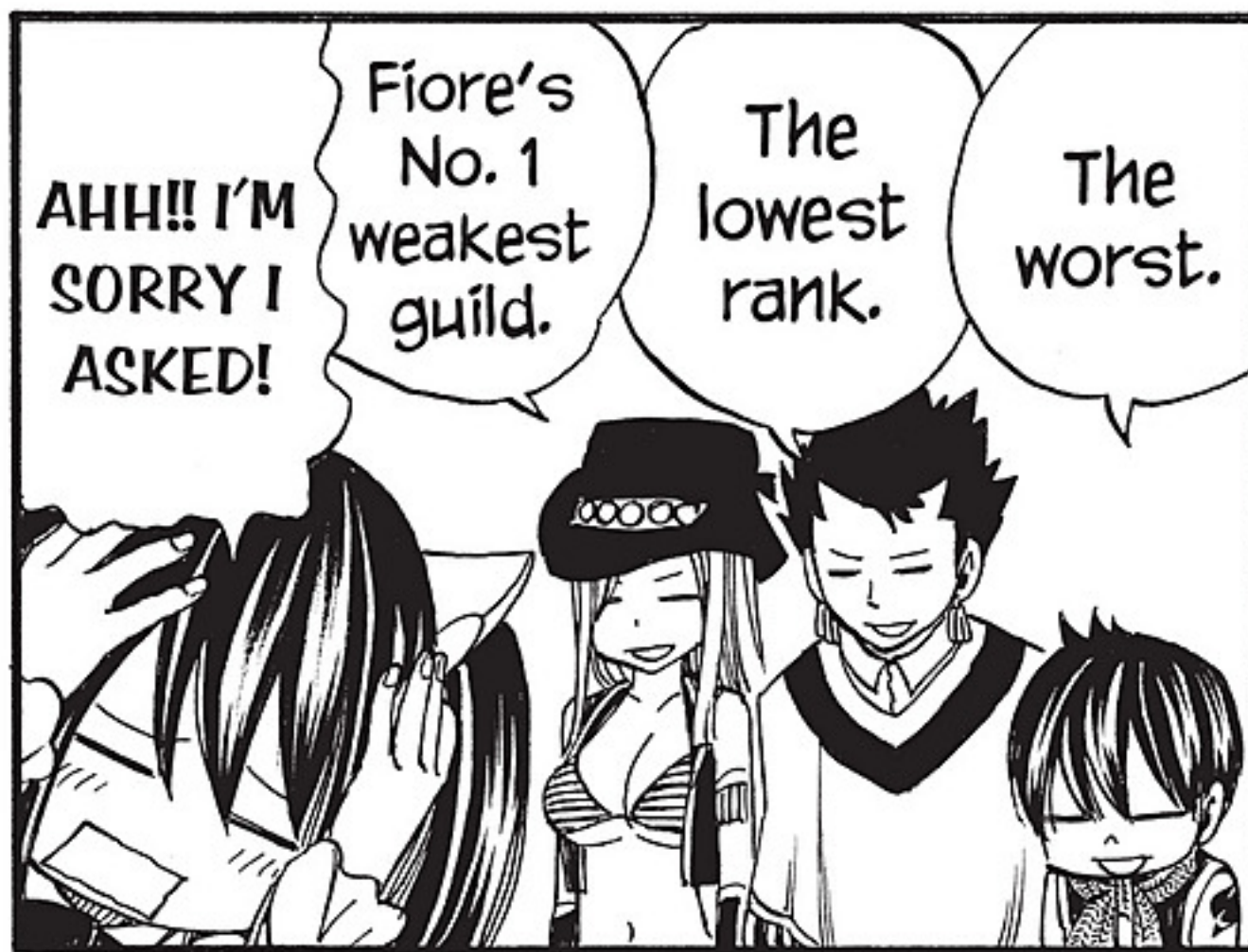


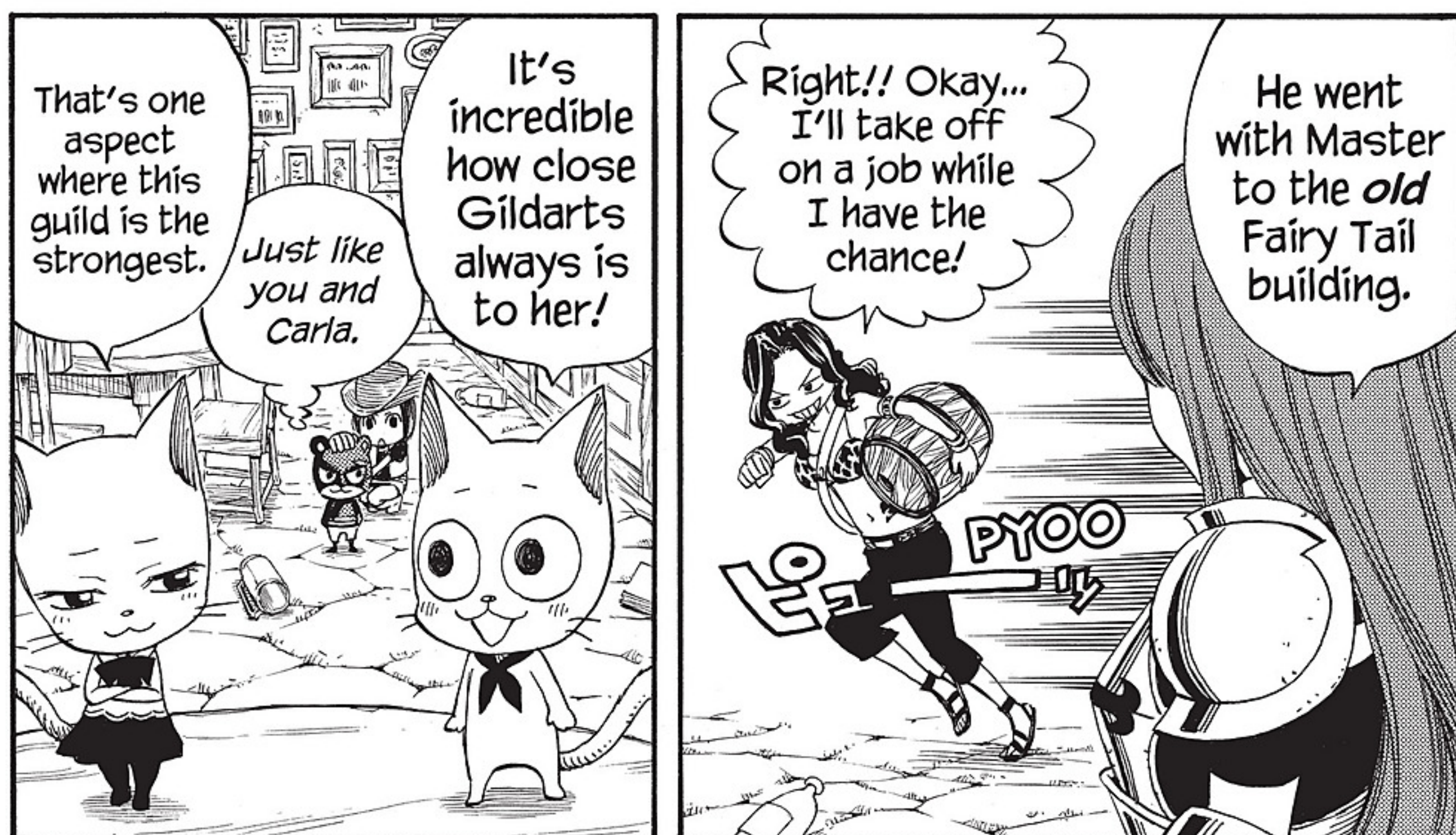
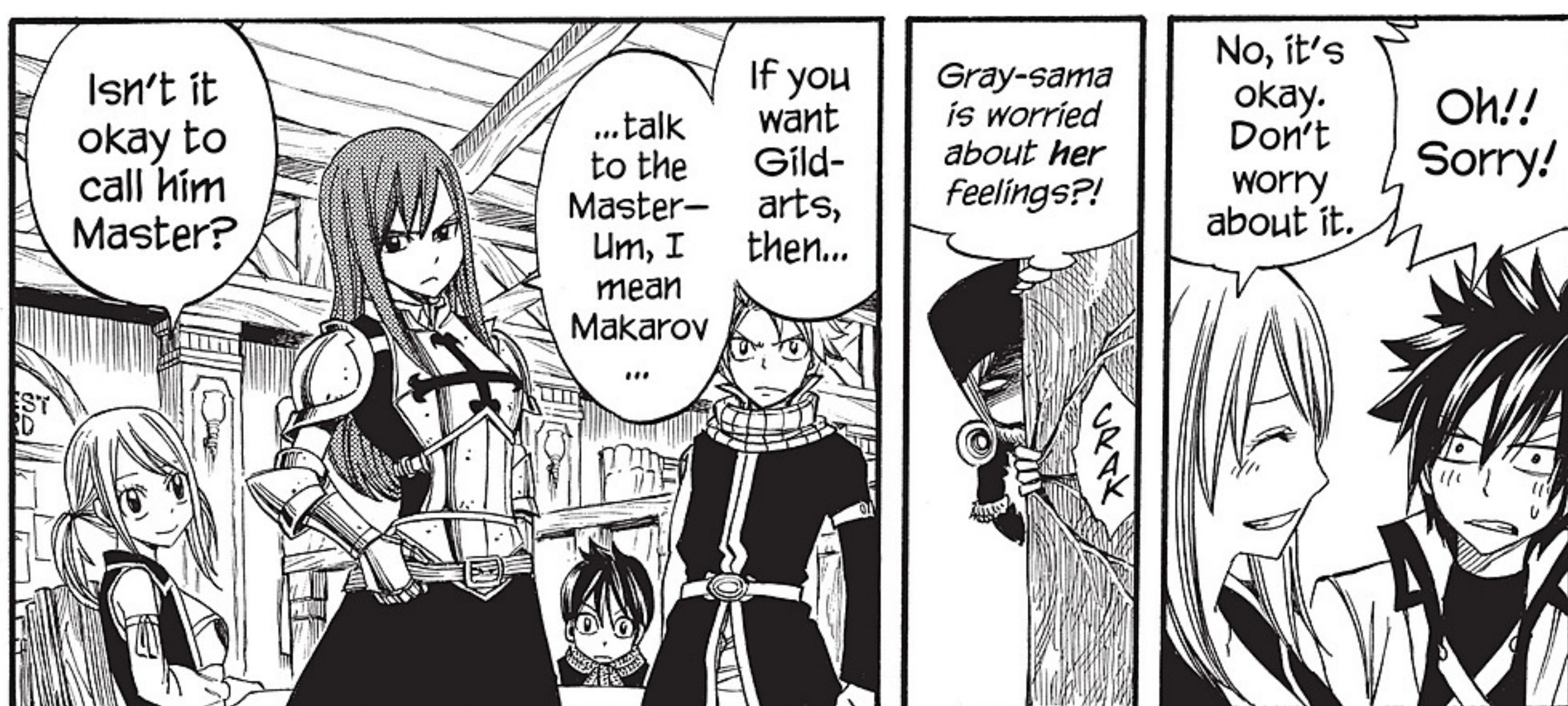
Everyone
treats each
day like a
festival,
making up
for seven
years of
lost time.

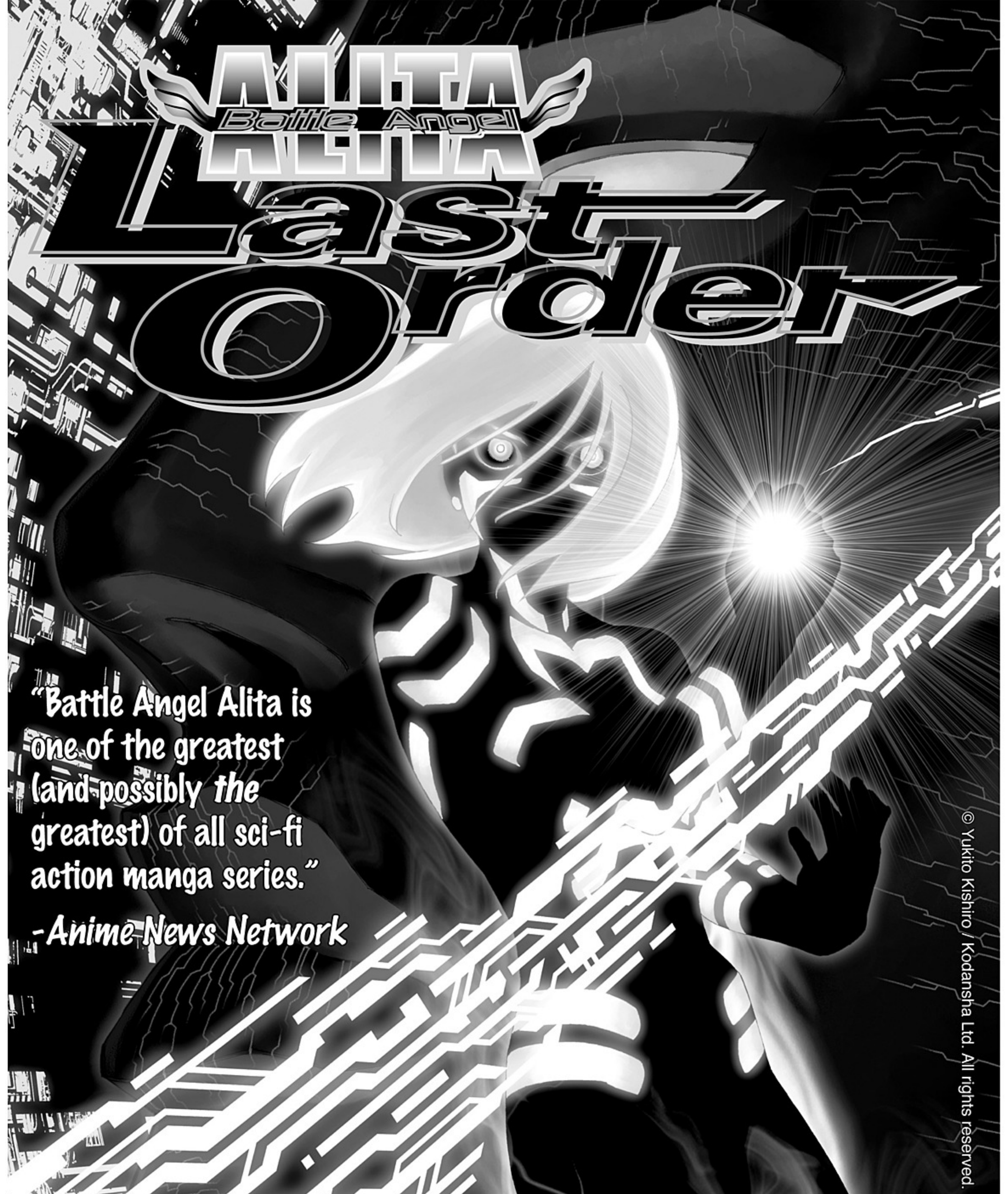


That makes
me almost
too happy.

I have
everybody
with me.







"Battle Angel Alita is
one of the greatest
(and possibly *the*
greatest) of all sci-fi
action manga series."

- Anime News Network

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KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

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